

20
22

HUSKIE



FOOTBALL

Game 4 - Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022 - 6 PM CT

NIU HUSKIES at #8/9 KENTUCKY WILDCATS

Lexington, Kentucky • Kroger Field (61,000)



2022 Record: 1-2
MAC Record: 0-0
Head Coach
Thomas Hammock
4th Season

On The Air

TV: ESPN2
Radio: 94-9 WDKB
AM 560 The Answer
Sportsfan Radio 1330
The Varsity Network App

Follow Us

Twitter: @NIUAthletics
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YouTube: NIU Athletics



2022 Record: 3-0
SEC Record: 1-0
Head Coach
Mark Stoops
10th Season

HUSKIE BITES

- The NIU Huskies travel to Kentucky for the first time since 1996 and make just their third trip to the Bluegrass state all-time as they take on the Kentucky Wildcats for the first time in school history.
- NIU is looking for its seventh win over an Associated Press ranked team all-time, and its first over a non-conference opponent since defeating No. 21 Alabama, 19-16, in Tuscaloosa in 2003.
- At No. 8/9 in the latest polls, Kentucky is the highest ranked team NIU has faced since Sept. 19, 2015 when the Huskies lost at No. 1 Ohio State, 20-13.
- NIU is coming off a 38-28 loss to Vanderbilt in Huskie Stadium as the Commodores scored the final 24 points of the contest over the last 22 minutes.
- Huskie quarterbacks Rocky Lombardi and Ethan Hampton combined to complete 14 straight passes (seven each) to start the Vanderbilt game, one off the NIU record for consecutive completions.
- The Huskies are the defending Mid-American Conference Champions and entered the season as one of just five teams from a non-autonomous (Group of 5) league with 100 or more wins since 2010. NIU was selected by the league media and coaches to claim the MAC West title (see polls page 2).
- Twenty-one of the Huskies' 35 games under Thomas Hammock (2019-present) have been decided by one score (eight points or less) with 10 determined by three points or less. NIU is 7-3 since 2019 in games within that three-point margin, including a 4-0 mark in 2021. Over the last two seasons, NIU is 8-4 in one score games.
- NIU head coach Thomas Hammock, a two-time first team CoSIDA Academic All-American who rushed for over 1,000 yards to lead the Huskies in both 2000 and 2001, is in his fourth season as head coach at his alma mater. Hammock, a finalist for Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year honors a year ago, will be inducted into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame on October 8.
- Linebacker Kyle Pugh has made NCAA FBS history as he is back for his eighth season at NIU. Pugh saw his 2017 and 2019 seasons cut short, missed 2021 with a knee injury sustained in the spring, and earned the COVID-19 "re-do" for 2020. The two-time All-MAC (2018, 2020) linebacker currently ranks third on the team with 23 tackles.

2022 SCHEDULE

Day, Date	Opponent (TV)	Time (CT)
Thurs., Sept. 1	EASTERN ILLINOIS (ESPN+)	W, 34-27
Sat., Sept. 10	at Tulsa (ESPN+)	L, 38-35
Sat., Sept. 17	VANDERBILT (CBSSN)	L, 38-28
Sat., Sept. 24	at Kentucky (ESPN2)	6 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 1	at Ball State* (ESPN+)	1 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 8	TOLEDO*	2:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 15	at Eastern Michigan*	TBA
Sat., Oct. 22	at Ohio*	TBA
Wed., Nov. 2	CENTRAL MICHIGAN* (ESPN2/U)	6 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 9	at Western Michigan* (ESPN2/U/CBSSN)	6 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 16	MIAMI* (ESPN2/U)	6/7 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 26	AKRON*	TBA
Sat., Dec. 3	MAC Championship - Detroit (ESPN)	11 a.m.

*Mid-American Conference Game

HUSKIE FOOTBALL FACTS

Head Coach.....Thomas Hammock
 Alma Mater/Year.....NIU '02
 Record at NIU/Years.....15-20/4th
 Career Record/Years.....Same
 Basic Offense/Defense.....Multiple/4-2-5
 First Year of Football.....1899
 2021 Record/MAC Record/Finish.....9-5/6-2/1st
 All-Time Record.....602-514-51
 Last Bowl Game.....2021 Tailgreeter Cure Bowl
Coastal Carolina 47, NIU 41
 Bowl Appearances (FBS).....14
 MAC Championship Appearances, Last.....9, 2021
 MAC Championships, Last.....6, 2021
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost.....52/15
 Starters Returning.....22 (8 offense, 13 defense, 1 specialist)
 Starters Lost.....7 (3 offense, 2 defense, 2 specialists)

NIU FACTS

Location.....DeKalb, Illinois
 Founded.....1895
 Enrollment.....16,769
 Affiliation.....NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision
 Conference.....Mid-American (West Division)
 Colors.....Cardinal and Black
 Stadium.....Brigham Field at Huskie Stadium
 Surface/Capacity.....FieldTurf /23,595
 President.....Dr. Lisa Freeman
 Assoc. VP/Athletic Director.....Sean T. Frazier
 Tickets.....815-753-PACK (7225)

NIU ATHCOMM (FB)

Associate Athletic Director.....Donna Turner
 Primary Contact.....815-753-9513/815-793-5474
donnaturner@niu.edu
 Associate Director.....Mike Haase
815-753-9538/630-748-9847
mhaase@niu.edu

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

COVERING THE HUSKIES

NIU WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE

- NIU will host a weekly press conference with Thomas Hammock and several Huskie players throughout the season.
- For Saturday games, press conferences will be held on Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. CT in the McCareins Auditorium (2nd floor) of the Yordon Center.
- The press conference can be seen live or accessed any time thereafter on the NIU Athletics' YouTube Channel (NIUAthleticsOfficial).

NIU PLAYER & COACH AVAILABILITY

- Huskie players and coaches are available for interviews Monday through Wednesday on Saturday game weeks.
- After practice or at the press conference are the best times for in-person interviews.
- Contact the NIU Athletics Communications Office to arrange in-person, phone or Zoom interviews.
- Please provide 24-hour notice for phone requests.
- Contact Mike Haase (players) or Donna Turner (coaches) to arrange interviews.

PRACTICE COVERAGE

- Media who wish to attend practice should contact the NIU Athletics Communications Office as access is limited during the season.
- Practices are held in the mornings at Huskie Stadium and/or the Chessick Practice Center.
- Social media posts regarding practice - whether during or after practice - are not permitted during the season.

INFORMATION, VIDEO & PHOTO REQUESTS

- To be added to the NIU AthComm e-mail distribution list (media only), contact Donna Turner.
- Contact Mike Haase to request photos and/or video.
- Information on all MAC teams, including releases, depth charts and photos, logos, league stats and more are available online at CollegePressBox.com. Media can register for access at collegepressbox.com/register.

MAC PRESEASON POLLS

Selected by a panel of 24 MAC media members.

West (1st place votes) Points

1. NIU (11)	122
2. Toledo (9)	120
3. Central Michigan (4)	112
4. Western Michigan	56
5. Eastern Michigan	52
6. Ball State	42

East (1st place votes) Points

1. Miami (20)	139
2. Kent State (3)	116
3. Buffalo	78
4. Ohio	72
5. Bowling Green (1)	71
6. Akron	28

Football Champion Votes

NIU (9), Toledo (6), Miami (5), Central Michigan (4)

Selected by MAC football head coaches.

West (1st place votes) Points

1. NIU (6)	61
2. Toledo	51
3. Central Michigan (2)	50
4. Western Michigan (3)	45
5. Eastern Michigan	24
6. Ball State (1)	21

East (1st place votes) Points

1. Kent State (5)	61
2. Miami (6)	60
3. Buffalo	43
4. Bowling Green (1)	36
5. Ohio	35
6. Akron	17

Football Champion Votes

NIU (4), Kent State (3), Miami (2), Western Michigan (2), Ball State (1)

NOTING NIU

LEXINGTON BOUND: The Northern Illinois University Huskies close out non-conference play on the road when NIU heads to Lexington, Kentucky to face the No. 8 (Associated Press)/No. 9 (USA Today/Coaches) ranked Kentucky Wildcats on ESPN2. Kickoff is at 6 p.m. CT/7 p.m. ET from Kroger Field.

FIRST TIMERS: NIU and Kentucky meet for the first time, the second new opponent on the Huskies' non-conference slate in 2022. NIU fell to Tulsa on Sept. 10 in the first game between those teams. Kentucky is the 163rd different recorded opponent in NIU's 119 years of college football.

LAST WEEK: NIU lost to Vanderbilt, 38-28, at Huskie Stadium as the Commodores scored the final 24 points of the game to overcome a 28-14 third-quarter deficit. Cole Tucker (2) and Kacper Rutkiewicz caught touchdown passes from quarterbacks Rocky Lombardi and Ethan Hampton (2) with Tucker weaving his way through the defense for a 70-yard score. In addition, Antario Brown scored on a 51-yard run for NIU. Although the NIU quarterback duo completed 14 straight passes to start the game and the Huskies did not punt until the third quarter, the offense was stymied late and Vanderbilt took advantage of some short fields to earn the win.

LOOKING FOR A BONE:

With a 22-21 win over Georgia Tech in the 2021 season-opener, NIU claimed its 17th "Boneyard Win," which are wins over prominent opponents and teams from leagues now designated as "Power 5." The Boneyard tradition began in 1983 with a win over Kansas and NIU has collected nine Boneyard Wins in the last 12 years. The Huskies have one Boneyard Win over a Southeastern Conference team with its 2003 victory over Alabama.

NIU BONEYARD WINS

Year	Opponent	H/A	Score	Opp Rank
1983	Kansas	A	37-34	—
1988	Wisconsin	A	19-17	—
1989	Kansas State	A	37-20	—
1990	Kansas State	H	42-35	—
2002	Wake Forest	H	42-41	—
2003	Maryland	H	20-13	15
2003	Alabama	A	19-16	21
2003	Iowa State	H	24-16	—
2009	Purdue	A	28-20	—
2010	Minnesota	A	34-23	—
2012	Kansas	H	30-23	—
2013	Iowa	A	30-27	—
2013	Purdue	A	55-24	—
2014	Northwestern	A	23-15	—
2017	Nebraska	A	21-17	—
2018	BYU	A	7-6	—
2021	Georgia Tech	A	22-21	—

RANKED RECORD: NIU has won six of its previous 39 meetings versus teams ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 at the time of the game dating back to Nov. 23, 1968, a 28-12 loss to Ohio. The Huskies last faced a Top 25 team was a year ago when NIU lost at Michigan, 63-10 on Sept. 18, while NIU's last win over a ranked team was on Nov. 3, 2015, a 32-27 win over No. 20 Toledo. The Huskies' last win over a ranked non-conference foe was a 19-16 win over No. 21 Alabama on Sept. 20, 2003.

THE LAST TIME, TOP 10 EDITION: The last time the Huskies faced a Top 10 team was Sept. 19, 2015 when NIU took on No. 1 Ohio State in Ohio Stadium. In that game, NIU forced five turnovers and held OSU to 136 passing yards and a 2-of-13 day on third downs as the teams combined for 16 punts. NIU led 7-0 after Shawun Lurry's interception on OSU's first drive and played the Buckeyes to a 10-10 tie at halftime. The difference in the game proved to be a 41-yard interception return score by Ohio State late in the third quarter.

NIU AND THE SEC: Following last week's loss to Vanderbilt, the Huskies are 1-12 all-time in the 13 games NIU has played versus seven Southeastern Conference teams. Kentucky is the Huskies' eighth SEC opponent, leaving Georgia, Mississippi State, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas A&M and LSU as the league teams NIU has not faced. The Huskies' lone victory over an SEC opponent was a 19-16 upset victory over No. 21 Alabama on Sept. 20, 2003 in Tuscaloosa. NIU is 0-5 all-time versus Vanderbilt and has lost to Florida and Arkansas twice in its history. The Huskies have also dropped games at Auburn (2000), Ole Miss (1983) and Tennessee (2008).

SEC TWO-FER: NIU is playing consecutive games versus Southeastern Conference

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teams for the first time in school history with Saturday's game at Kentucky on the heels of last week's home game versus Vanderbilt. This year marks just the second time the Huskies have faced two SEC teams in a season. In 1994, NIU played Vanderbilt in Nashville on October 29 – a 17-16 loss - and two weeks later, lost to Arkansas in Fayetteville, 30-27.

BLUEGRASS BLUES: In eight games against teams from Kentucky all-time, the Huskies are 2-6, including an 0-4 mark in the Bluegrass State. The Huskies' Kentucky history dates back to a pair of games at Eastern Kentucky in 1940 and 1948. NIU is 0-3 all-time versus Louisville with losses at Louisville in 1977 and 1996 and a home loss in 1995. The Huskies' 2-2 home record includes wins over Murray State in 1990 and 2015, a 1969 loss to Western Kentucky and a home loss to Louisville in 1995.

LAND OF LINCOLN LEADERS: Since 2010, NIU is the winningest football program among the state of Illinois' seven Division I (3 FBS & 4 FCS) football programs. During that time, the Huskies are 1-1 versus their fellow in-state FBS programs with a 2014 win over Northwestern and a 2010 loss at Illinois. NIU is 4-1 versus in-state FCS opponents over the last 12 seasons, including the opening week win over Eastern Illinois. With nine bowl games and eight MAC Championship game appearances in the last 12 years, NIU has played more games, 157, than any other school in the state.

Illinois' Division I Schools Since 2010

Team	W	L	Pct.
NIU	101	57	.639
Illinois State	85	56	.603
Northwestern	83	69	.546
Southern Illinois	63	76	.453
Eastern Illinois	53	83	.390
Western Illinois	52	86	.377
Illinois	55	92	.374

AMONG THE BEST: NIU entered the 2022 season with 100 wins, one of just 19 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) teams and one of five teams from a non-autonomous (Group of 5) league to win 100 or more games since 2010. The Huskies are now 101-57 over the last 12 years for a .639 winning percentage. NIU's 158 games played during that time ranks tied for seventh in the nation and are the most by any Group of 5 team.

HISTORY-MAKING: In 2021, NIU became the first team in FBS history to win its conference championship game one season after going winless. The Huskies went 0-6 in the COVID-shortened 2020 season, with three of the losses by one score. NIU's nine-win improvement was the largest one-year jump in school history.

CHAMPS, AGAIN: With its 41-23 win over Kent State in the 2021 Rocket Mortgage MAC Championship game, NIU's five MAC Championship game victories are more than any other current league member. NIU has made a record nine appearances in the game, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2021. NIU has won six Mid-American Conference titles all-time, as the Huskies' first MAC crown came in 1983 under head coach Bill Mallory before the days of conference championship games.

CARDIAC CANINES CONTINUED: In four seasons under Thomas Hammock, 21 of the Huskies' 35 games have been decided by one score (eight points) or less, including 10 of 14 games a year ago and the Huskies' first two games in 2022. The Huskies are 8-4 in one score contests over the last two seasons and have an 11-10 mark in games decided by one score over the last four years. NIU is just as good when the games are closer with a 7-3 record in the last four seasons in games decided by three points or less, including a 4-0 record in those games a year ago.

HUSKIES IN THE PROS

Five NIU Huskies are on NFL rosters in 2022, led by ninth-year pro Jimmie Ward, who was named to the NFL Networks' Top 100 list this summer. Wide receiver Kenny Golladay enters his second season with the New York Giants and his sixth season in the league. Max Scharping moved to the Cincinnati Bengals this preseason, while Jordan Steckler (Houston) and Jack Heflin (Green Bay) are on practice squads.

National Football League

New York Giants	Kenny Golladay (WR)
Green Bay Packers	Jack Heflin (DL) - PS
Cincinnati Bengals	Max Scharping (OL)
Houston Texans	Jordan Steckler (OL) - PS
San Francisco 49ers	Jimmie Ward (S)

FOLLOW THE HUSKIES

TV: NIU-KENTUCKY ON ESPN2

- NIU's game at Kentucky will air on ESPN2.
- The Huskies will make their 40th all-time appearance on ESPN2, the most of any ESPN Network, and are 25-14 in games broadcast on the network.
- The Huskies have had at least one game broadcast on ESPN2 every season since 2008 and will play on ESPN2 for the first time this season.
- Anish Shroff (play-by-play) and Brock Osweiler (analyst) will be on the call with sideline reporter Taylor McGregor.

RADIO: HUSKIE SPORTS NETWORK

- The Huskie Sports Radio Network coverage for the Kentucky game begins 90 minutes before kickoff, at 4:30 p.m. (CT), on 94-9 WDKB with the Toyota Huskie Nation Pre-Game Party.
- Coverage on WDKB, as well as NIU network affiliates AM 560 The Answer (Chicago) and SportsFan AM 1330 begins 30 minutes before the game, at 5:30 pm (CT).
- Hear the broadcast online via Huskie All Access, and on mobile devices via the FREE NIU Huskies mobile app or The Varsity Network app.
- Bill Baker is in his 43rd season as the radio play-by-play "Voice of the Huskies." Color analyst Mark Lindo is alongside for the the 37th consecutive season, while Andy Garcia is in his 10th season on the NIU sidelines.

INSIDE HUSKIE FOOTBALL RADIO SHOW

- Fans are invited to attend the one-hour weekly show every week at 1 p.m. in the Novak Room at Fatty's Pub & Grille in DeKalb (1312 W. Lincoln Hwy).
- Shows will take place on Thursdays in September and October before Saturday games.
- Listen live on the NIU Huskies or The Varsity Network mobile app and hear the show on the same day at 6 pm on SportsFan AM 1330 in Rockford.
- Host Andy Garcia chats with NIU Head Coach Thomas Hammock each week, along with Huskie players and special guests.

NIU WEEKLY ON YOUTUBE

- The show features weekly interviews with NIU football personnel, including head coach Thomas Hammock, as well as NIU administrators, coaches and student-athletes from other sports programs.
- Watch new episodes on the NIU Athletics YouTube Channel each week.
- The show is hosted by Andy Garcia.

NIU ATHLETICS ON YOUTUBE

- See weekly and post-game press conferences, video features, highlights of past games and more.
- Subscribe for FREE and click the bell to be notified every time NIU posts a new video.
- Search "NIU Athletics" on YouTube or go to YouTube.com/NIUAthleticsOfficial.
- Archived videos and highlights, replays of some of the greatest games in school history and special features are also available 24/7 on YouTube.

NIU HUSKIES MOBILE APP

- Download the new, free NIU Huskies mobile app from the Apple Store or Google Play.
- Link to the NIU radio broadcasts, live stats, complete team rosters, digital game programs and more.
- Connect to the NIU social media channels and sign up for notifications on any Huskie team.

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HERE WE GO AGAIN: A year ago, the Huskies played in 10 games decided by eight points or less, and the first two games of 2022 followed suit. NIU defeated Eastern Illinois by seven points in the season opener, stopping the Panthers at the NIU 36-yard line as time expired. At Tulsa in game two, the Golden Hurricane scored with 58 seconds left and NIU's final drive ended in an interception, giving TU the 38-35 win.

ONE OF A KIND: NIU linebacker Kyle Pugh is the first player in FBS history to play eight years of college football - although due to a series of different injuries, he has not actually played in all eight seasons. Pugh, who is earning his second master's degree, signed with the Huskies in February 2015 and redshirted as a freshman. Pugh was an all-conference player in 2018 and 2020. He has been at NIU through three presidential administrations, four bowl games and three MAC Championship games and his freshmen teammates were in sixth grade when he arrived at NIU.

FINE FORM: Kyle Pugh made a season high 12 tackles versus Vanderbilt last week, his highest total since a 14-tackle effort versus Central Michigan in 2020. He has 23 stops on the year to rank third on the team. Versus Vanderbilt, Pugh surpassed 200 tackles for his career and has 210 tackles in 37 games. He has 12.5 career tackles for loss and three sacks in 26 starts. Pugh's most successful season was 2018 when he made 106 tackles, 63 solo with five tackles for loss.

QB COMPLETIONS: Huskie quarterbacks Rocky Lombardi and Ethan Hampton combined to complete 14 straight passes to start the Vanderbilt game with Lombardi hitting all seven of his attempts for 79 yards and a touchdown before leaving the game in the second quarter. Hampton came on with approximately nine minutes to play in the second period and completed his first seven passes for 107 yards, including a short pass that Cole Tucker took 70 yards to the end zone. The first incomplection did not occur until 10:08 of the third quarter.

SO CLOSE: The Huskies' 14 consecutive completions by quarterbacks Rocky Lombardi and Ethan Hampton fell just one short of the unofficial NIU record of 15 set by Dan Nicholson versus Southern Illinois on Sept. 8, 2007. The last player to complete 14 consecutive passes was Drew Hare versus Ball State on Oct. 10, 2015 during a game in which he completed 29-of-32 throws to set the NIU single game record for completion percentage.

KACPER KAN: Illinois State transfer Kacper Rutkiewicz continues to make a big impact for the Huskies as he caught his third touchdown pass of the season versus Vanderbilt on a four-yard reception from Ethan Hampton. Rutkiewicz' first two catches as a Huskie went for touchdowns at Tulsa, including one of 30 yards. In 29 games over three seasons at ISU, Rutkiewicz had just one touchdown catch.

COLE HARD FACTS: A year ago, Trayvon Rudolph (51 catches), Tyrice Richie (44) and Cole Tucker (41) accounted for 66 percent of the Huskies' 205 pass receptions. Richie graduated and Rudolph is out for the season due to injury, leaving Tucker. The senior established a new career high for single game receiving yards with 123 at Tulsa. Versus Vanderbilt, he took a short pass from Ethan Hampton on the third play of the third quarter and weaved his way to the end zone for a career long 70-yard touchdown and a 28-14 NIU lead. His two TD catches versus Vandy are also a career best. The DeKalb native and Huskie legacy, whose parents Brett and Cindy were NIU football and gymnastics student-athletes, respectively, has caught 125 passes for 1,676 yards in his career to move up to No. 16 on NIU's all-time receiving yards list.

ALREADY THERE: Against Tulsa, freshman safety Muhammad Jammeh collected NIU's third interception of the season, matching the Huskies' SEASON total from a year ago. Jammeh added his first career interception to sophomore cornerback Eric Rogers' two picks versus Eastern Illinois. Last season, NIU defensive backs had just one interception, with safety C.J. Brown scoring on a 26-yard interception return in the MAC Championship game.

GETTING THERE: The Huskie defense secured its fifth turnover of the season versus Vanderbilt with Jordan Gandy forcing a fumble that C.J. Brown picked up and returned 12 yards. Gandy was also involved in one of NIU's two turnovers at Tulsa as he recovered a muffed punt. Add the three interceptions and NIU has five turnovers in 2022 for an average of 1.67 per game. Last season, NIU ranked 118th in the country with 12 turnovers (three INTs, nine fumble recoveries) gained in 14 game, 0.86 per game. The Huskies currently rank 17th nationally and lead the MAC in turnovers gained.

LONG DISTANCE BACK: NIU running back Antario Brown scored his eighth career rushing touchdown, and his third in three games this season, on a career long 51-yard run versus Vanderbilt. Brown had an eight-yard touchdown

ROSTER BREAKDOWN

BY CLASS	Off.	Def.	Spec.	Total
Senior	5	4	0	9
Junior	5	2	1	8
Sophomore (C)	7	12	0	19
Sophomore (R)	7	3	1	11
Sophomore	5	8	1	14
Freshman (R)	13	13	2	28
Freshman	16	14	1	31

BY POSITION

Offensive Line.....	18
Tight End.....	7
Fullback.....	2
Wide Receiver.....	16
Running Back.....	9
Quarterback.....	6
Defensive End.....	10
Defensive Tackle.....	10
Linebacker.....	17
Safety.....	8
Cornerback.....	11
Kicker/Punter.....	4
Long Snapper.....	2

BY STATE/PROVINCE

Illinois.....	50
Wisconsin.....	15
Iowa.....	7
Michigan.....	7
New Jersey.....	7
Georgia.....	6
Indiana.....	6
Florida.....	5
Minnesota.....	3
Missouri.....	3
Nebraska.....	3
Maryland.....	2
Texas.....	2
Alabama.....	1
Massachusetts.....	1
Ohio.....	1
Ontario (Canada).....	1

HUSKIE OPPONENTS THIS WEEK

Eastern Illinois.....	at Murray State
Tulsa.....	at Ole Miss
Vanderbilt.....	at Alabama
Kentucky.....	NIU
Ball State.....	at Georgia Southern
Toledo.....	at San Diego State
Eastern Michigan.....	Buffalo
Ohio.....	Fordham
Central Michigan.....	at Penn State
Western Michigan.....	at San Jose State
Miami (Ohio).....	at Northwestern
Akron.....	at Liberty

"THE HARD WAY"

"The Hard Way" has been a mantra for NIU Football long before hashtags or Twitter. The slogan has been embraced by Huskie players and coaches alike since 1996 when it was first introduced at NIU by a junior college transfer named Kenneth Williams during preseason camp. The Hard Way describes the hard work, sacrifice and determination required to get the job done no matter the obstacle. It describes a culture of toughness. The hashtag evolved from a song/chant that is sung in the Huskie locker room following victories.

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BY THE NUMBERS

- .646 Completion percentage for NIU QBs in 2022, nearly 7 percent better than in 2021
- 1 Sacks allowed by NIU through first three games of 2022
- 5 Turnovers forced by NIU through three games
- 5 NIU MAC Championships since 2011
- 5 Career double-digit tackle games for CJ Brown
- 7 Rushing TDs by Antario Brown in his last eight games
- 8 Different receivers that caught a pass for NIU last week vs. Vanderbilt
- 8:40 Length (by time) of NIU's longest scoring drive this season
- 12 Tackles for eighth-year linebacker Kyle Pugh last week vs. Vanderbilt, his highest total since making 14 vs. Central Michigan in 2020
- 14 Consecutive completions for NIU quarterbacks to start last week's game vs. Vanderbilt
- 18 Returning starters for the Huskies
- 19 Career pass breakups for cornerback Jordan Gandy
- 21 NIU points off turnovers through the first three games of 2022
- 28 Years since NIU played two SEC opponents in the same season (1994 - Vanderbilt, Arkansas)
- 32 Consecutive starts for OT Marques Cox, dating back to 9/28/19 at Vanderbilt
- 50 Huskies from the state of Illinois on the 2021 roster
- 51 Yards of Antario Brown's TD run last week vs. Vanderbilt, the longest run of his career
- 70 Yards of Cole Tucker's longest reception as a Huskie, a touchdown last week vs. Vanderbilt
- 99 Consecutive PATs made by kicker John Richardson (99-for-99)
- 119 Seasons of college football played by NIU
- 163 Number of recorded teams NIU will have played in its history with Kentucky the latest
- 193.8 Team score for NIU Gymnastics in a quad meet at Kentucky in 2017
- 2,432 Career rushing yards for head coach Thomas Hammock (1999-2002) to rank 13th at NIU

ON THE WATCH

Eight members of the 2022 NIU Football team were named to one or more of the college football preseason watch lists, or have been nominated for a national college football award.

Antario Brown, RB, So.	Doak Walker Award
CJ Brown, S, So.-C.....	Jim Thorpe Award
.....	Nagurski Award
.....	Bednarik Award
Rocky Lombardi, QB, Sr.-R.....	Unitas Award
.....	Reese's Senior Bowl
Nolan Potter, OT, Jr.-R.....	Outland Trophy
.....	Reese's Senior Bowl
Nick Rattin, LB, Jr.	Allstate AFCA Good Works Team
.....	Wuerffel Trophy
John Richardson, K, Jr.-R.....	Groza Award
Trayvon Rudolph, WR, So.-C.....	Biletnikoff Award
.....	Paul Hornung Award
Harrison Waylee, RB, So.-C.....	Doak Walker Award

at Tulsa and a 35-yard rushing score versus Eastern Illinois. The average length of his eight TD runs is 33.75 yards. Six of Brown's eight TDs have come on runs of at least 35 yards with the only exceptions a seven-yard touchdown run in the Cure Bowl game versus Coastal Carolina and the eight-yarder at Tulsa. Last year, he scored from 37 yards out at Toledo, on a 47-yard run at Buffalo and had TD runs of 44 and 41 yards versus Western Michigan in addition to the Cure Bowl score.

PASS PRO: The Huskie offensive line has picked up where it left off a year ago in terms of pass protection when NIU ranked second in the country (FBS) in fewest sacks allowed with just 10 sacks surrendered in 14 games. Through three games this season, NIU opponents have one sack and the Huskies are sixth nationally. The line features four returning starters in left tackle Marques Cox (33 starts), right guard Logan Zschernitz (25), right tackle Nolan Potter (23) and left guards J.J. Lippe (15) and John Champe (6), along with redshirt freshman Pete Nygra (3).

ON THE SAFE SIDE: Safety C.J. Brown, who earned first team All-MAC honors after leading NIU in tackles a year ago, led the Huskies with 13 tackles versus Vanderbilt and now ranks second on the team with 27 stops on the season. Brown also recovered a Vanderbilt fumble which he returned inside the 10-yard line before a penalty negated most of the return.

A PACK OF HUSKIES: A trio of players have started at NIU's hybrid "huskie" position in 2022 with Jordan Hansen, Devin Lafayette and Louis Frye all earning starts while Jaden Dolphin has also manned the position this year. Most recently, Frye started versus Vanderbilt and recorded seven tackles. Lafayette had a season-high five stops at Tulsa while Dolphin made nine tackles in the opener against Eastern Illinois.

RAYNER SHINES: Sophomore linebacker Daveren Rayner leads NIU in tackles after making 25 tackles in the first two games and adding seven versus Vanderbilt. His 32 tackles in just three games are already a single season best as he totaled 29 tackles in eight games a year ago and 27 in the Huskies' six-game season in 2020. Rayner became just the third Huskie to make 20 or more tackles in the first two games of a season since 2012. He joins current teammate Kyle Pugh (2017) and All-American defensive back Jimmie Ward (2012 and 2013) as the only Huskies to reach that early season mark in the last 10 years.

MR. ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD: After missing the last nine games of last season due to injury, sophomore cornerback Eric Rogers picked off Eastern Illinois quarterback Jonah O'Brien twice in the Huskies' 34-27 win for the first INTs of his NIU career. The first gave NIU possession in Panthers' territory and preceded Antario Brown's 35-yard touchdown run, while the second came inside the Huskies' five-yard line to stop an EIU drive. He earned MAC West Defensive Player of the Week honors.

SHEMAR-VELOUS DEBUT: Senior wide receiver Shemar Thornton, a transfer from Florida International University, had an impressive Huskie debut with six catches for 81 yards versus Eastern Illinois to lead NIU. Thornton averaged 13.5 yards per catch in the game with a 38-yard grab. He led NIU with five catches last week and ranks second on the team with 13 receptions for 149 yards.

WELCOME BACK: Harrison Waylee, a third-year sophomore, made his return to the Huskie backfield after missing the last nine games of 2021 due to an injury suffered versus Eastern Michigan on Oct. 2. Waylee ran for 574 yards on 101 carries while starting the first five games last season and came into the 2022 season with 1,030 career yards on 208 carries. He has 152 yards on 36 carries through three games in 2022, giving him 1,182 career yards on 244 rushes, a 4.8 yards per carry average in 14 career games.

ON(SIDE) IT: NIU kicker John Richardson provided one of the key moments in NIU's 17-point second-half comeback versus Tulsa when he recovered his own onside kick after the Huskies scored on the opening possession of the second half. Richardson dribbled the ball forward 11 yards, and pounced on it, allowing NIU to embark on a touchdown drive that pulled the Huskies within three points at 8:54 of the third quarter. It was the first onside kick recovery by NIU since Dec. 12, 2020 when Jyrn Mitchell recovered a Richardson onside effort versus Eastern Michigan.

WORTH THE WAIT: Sixth-year senior tight end Liam Soraghan scored his first career touchdown versus Eastern Illinois on a 13-yard reception from his roommate, quarterback Rocky Lombardi and has three catches for 39 yards on the year. He came into the year with four career receptions for 24 yards.

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

WALK ON TO SCHOLARSHIP

#	Name	Pos.	Hometown
3	Mason Blakemore	RB	Centralia, Ill.
6	Jeffery Lomax	QB	Elgin, Ill.
10	Billy Dozier	WR	New Lenox, Ill.
14	Jordan Gandy*	CB	DeKalb, Ill.
17	Louis Frye	S	Teaneck, N.J.
21	Muhammad Jammeh*	S	Detroit, Mich.
26	Jaden Dolphin*	HSK	Des Plaines, Ill.
36	Dayven Shinhoster	LB	Barrington, Ill.
38	Nick Rattin*	LB	Palatine, Ill.
40	Izzy Ozoh	TE	Hazel Crest, Ill.
44	Ryan King	LB	Wildwood, Mo.
47	Drew Cassens	TE	Downers Grove, Ill.
49	Brock Lampe*	FB	Kenosha, Wis.
82	Tristen Tewes*	TE	Pleasant Plains, Ill.
84	George Gumbs	WR	Chicago, Ill.
85	Trayvon Rudolph	WR	Crete, Ill.
95	Devonte O'Malley*	DE	Midlothian, Ill.
96	Jacob Waskow	DT	Canton, Ill.
98	Tom Foley*	P	Peoria, Ill.

ONE-SCORE GAMES

Year	Score
2019	3-3
at Vanderbilt	L 24-18
Ball State	L 27-20
at Ohio	W 39-36
at Miami (Ohio)	L 27-24
at Toledo	W 31-28
Western Michigan	W 17-14
2020	0-3
at Ball State	L 31-25
at Western Michigan	L 30-27
at Eastern Michigan	L 41-33
2021	7-3
at Georgia Tech	W 22-21
Wyoming	L 50-43
Eastern Michigan	W 27-20
Bowling Green	W 34-26
at Toledo	W 22-20
at Central Michigan	W 39-38
at Kent State	L 52-47
Ball State	W 30-29
at Buffalo	W-OT 33-27
vs. Coastal Carolina	L 47-41
(Cure Bowl)	
2022	1-1
Eastern Illinois	W 34-27
at Tulsa	L 38-35

NEW TO NIU: Five players who transferred to NIU this year have seen action so far this season with wide receiver Shemar Thornton (FIU) and defensive end Izayah Green-May (Wisconsin) both earning starting roles. Thornton led the Huskies in receiving with six catches for 81 yards versus EIU while fellow transfer receiver Kacper Rutkiewicz has three touchdown catches on the year. Green-May leads NIU in tackles for loss and earned his first sack at Tulsa. Quinn Urwiler (North Dakota) and Joey Rattin (Upper Iowa) have contributed on special teams. In all, eight players who started their collegiate careers elsewhere - including starting punter Tom Foley - are listed on the two-deep.

KICKING IT: NIU kicker John Richardson has scored 19 points on the year with 13 PATs and two field goals to put his career total at 234 points, 45 field goals and 99 PATs. He ranks sixth in most points scored kicking, is fifth in field goals made and sixth in PATs made. He entered the season first or tied for first on the Huskies' career lists for field goal percentage (.796) and PAT percentage (1.000)

EARNED IT: Thomas Hammock has made a habit of rewarding players who walk-on to the Huskie program with scholarships. Since his arrival at NIU in 2019, 21 players have earned scholarships after arriving at NIU as walk-ons, including 19 players on the 2022 roster and eight - fully one third - of the Huskies starters on offense, defense or special teams. Of those 19, 15 are from the state of Illinois. The group joins a long and distinguished list of NIU players from the past that arrived as walk-ons including 2010 MAC MVP Chad Spann, who will be inducted into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame this fall, and recently retired NFL defensive back Rashaan Melvin. See the complete list of current former walk-ons in the column to the left.

LEAD DOGS: Six players were elected team captains for 2022 by their teammates. Quarterback Rocky Lombardi, linebacker Nick Rattin and defensive tackle James Ester (DT) were named captains for the second straight season. Linebacker and eighth-year senior Kyle Pugh, offensive tackle Nolan Potter and sophomore defensive back Jashon Prophete were also chosen.

NEW FACES: The Huskie coaching staff features two new faces in 2022. Co-defensive coordinator and cornerbacks coach Nick Benedetto arrived in March 2022 from Samford, where he was defensive coordinator for the past two seasons. Wide receivers coach Joseph Hawkins was an analyst at Duke after previously serving as wide receivers coach at Bryant University.

STAFF DIVERSITY: One of 14 African-American men to lead a FBS program, Thomas Hammock's staff also reflects the university's and NIU Athletics' commitment to diversity. Of the 10 full-time assistant coaches on staff, seven are minorities which ranks tied for second among all FBS schools. NIU's staff includes six African-American coaches and one Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. The six African-American coaches are tied for second-most in FBS. Last year, NIU won the NCAA/MOAA Diversity and Inclusion Award for the second time. The top four (credit: the University of Colorado):

Hawai'i	8	(4 P, 2 Asian/P, 1 AA, 1 Asian)
Miami, Fla.	8	(5 AA, 2 H, 1 P)
NIU	7	(6 AA, 1 H/P)
Virginia	7	(7 AA)

HALL OF FAMER: NIU head coach Thomas Hammock is one of three former Huskie football players who will be inducted into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame during Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 8. Hammock gained more than 2,400 rushing yards and was a two-time first team CoSIDA Academic All-American during his NIU playing career (1999-2002). He will be joined by fellow running back Chad Spann (2007-10) and quarterback Chandler Harnish (2008-11) in the 2022 Hall of Fame Class.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE: Senior defensive end Michael Kennedy is NIU's 2022 nominee for the William Campbell Trophy, presented by the National Football Foundation to the top football Scholar-Athlete in the country. Kennedy earned his undergraduate degree in management with an emphasis on entrepreneurship and social responsibility and is currently pursuing his MBA.

GRADS: NIU 2022 roster includes 13 players who have already earned their undergraduate degrees - either at NIU or from another institution, and one who already has two degrees. Huskie eighth-year senior Kyle Pugh has both an undergraduate and a graduate degree. Transfers Miles Joiner, Rocky Lombardi, Izayah Green-May, Kaymar Mimes and Shemar Thornton all came to NIU with degrees from their previous institutions. In addition to Pugh, Brett Bostad, Marques Cox, Jeffrey Griffin Jr., Michael Kennedy, Nolan Potter, Liam Soraghan and Cole Tucker are Huskie alumni.

YOUNGSTERS: A year ago, the Huskies won the MAC with the second-youngest roster in the country, including 71 players who graduated from high school in 2020 or 2021. Of the 120 players on this year's roster, 59 are freshmen, including 28 who redshirted in 2021. Add the 14 "true" (second-year sophomores) and 73 players, or 60.8% of the roster, graduated high school in the past two years.

NEXT UP: The Huskies, the defending Mid-American Conference Champions, open MAC play at Ball State on October 1. The Battle for the Bronze Stalk game kicks off at 1 p.m. (CT) on ESPN+.

NIU Head Coach Thomas Hammock

Thomas Hammock, a former Huskie student-athlete and assistant coach, returned home to Northern Illinois University as the 23rd head coach in the history of NIU football on Jan. 18, 2019. One of the top football student-athletes in school history, Hammock was named NIU head coach after five seasons (2014-18) as an assistant coach with the Baltimore Ravens.

In his third season as head coach in 2021, Hammock led the second-youngest team in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) to a 9-5 record and the Mid-American Conference Championship after the Huskies went winless (0-6) during the COVID-shortened 2020 campaign. NIU recorded a nation's best seven one-possession wins, including four by three points or less and another in overtime, en route to the Mid-American Conference West Division title. Hammock was named the MAC Coach of the Year and was one of 13 finalists for the FWA's Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award, becoming just the fourth coach from a MAC school to be named a finalist for the honor.

The first African-American head coach in NIU football history and the first alumnus to lead the Huskies as a FBS program, Hammock's contract was extended through the 2026-27 academic year in November 2021.

In his first two seasons, Hammock refreshed the roster while imposing academic standards that led to the football team posting its highest GPA in school history (3.08), and completing the entire COVID-19 shortened six-game 2020 schedule without a single case of the virus.

Hammock began his coaching career at Wisconsin, where he spent two seasons as a graduate assistant, followed by two seasons as an assistant at NIU under Huskie Hall of Famer Joe Novak (2005-06). He was an assistant at Minnesota and Wisconsin before joining the Ravens in 2014.

In his five seasons as the running backs coach for the Ravens, Baltimore's rushing attack finish in the top 11 in the NFL three times, including in 2018 when the Ravens had the second-best rushing offense in the league. The Ravens made the playoffs twice during his time in Baltimore.

Hammock helped mentor running back Justin Forsett to his first career Pro Bowl in 2014 as he rushed for a career-high 1,266 yards, fifth-most in the NFL. Baltimore fullback Kyle Juszczyk was selected to the Pro Bowl for the first time in 2016 after he led the NFL in catches (37) and receiving yards (266) by a fullback.



Prior to his five seasons in Baltimore, Hammock spent three years at Wisconsin as running backs coach and assistant head coach. In 2011, the Badgers ranked 11th nationally in rushing, while Montee Ball led the nation in rushing yards (1,923) and broke the NCAA single-season touchdown record with 39, 33 rushing. Ball was a consensus first team All-American and a Heisman Trophy finalist as the Badgers finished 11-3 and played in the Rose Bowl.

The following season, Wisconsin again ranked among the nation's elite rushing teams, Ball became the NCAA's all-time leader in rushing scores and won the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top running back.

A two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American at running back during his playing days, Hammock returned to DeKalb as an assistant coach in 2005-06. In his first season, NIU Hall of Famer Garrett Wolfe rushed for 1,580 yards and 16 touchdowns in just nine games as NIU won the MAC West Division and appeared in the MAC Championship Game for the first time.

During the 2006 campaign, Wolfe rushed for an NCAA-best 1,928 yards as the Huskies reached the Poinsettia Bowl. Hammock helped Wolfe earn All-America and first team All-MAC honors in both 2005 and 2006. Wolfe was also the Vern Smith Leadership Award winner as the MAC's Most Valuable Player in 2006.

Following his two seasons with the Huskies, Hammock spent four years as the running backs coach at Minnesota (2007-10), helping the Gophers to the Insight Bowl in both 2008 and 2009. Hammock was named the co-offensive coordinator at Minnesota for the 2010 season and the Gophers moved up 26 spots nationally in rushing and 34 spots in total offense.

Hammock, a New Jersey native who grew up in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, earned his bachelor's degree in marketing from NIU in December 2002, and a master's in educational leadership and policy analysis from Wisconsin in 2004. He and his wife, Cheynnitha, also a NIU alum, have a daughter, Tierra, and a son, Thomas Douglas.

ABOUT HAMMOCK

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2019-	NIU (Head Coach)
2014-18	Baltimore Ravens (Running Backs)
2011-13	Wisconsin
	• Asst. Head Coach/RBs/Recruiting Coord. (2012-13)
	• Running Backs (2011)
2007-10	Minnesota
	• Running Backs (2007-09)
	• Co-Offensive Coord./Running Backs (2010)
2005-06	NIU (Running Backs)
2003-04	Wisconsin (Graduate Assistant)

POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2021	Cure Bowl (NIU)
2021	MAC Championship Game (NIU)
2018	NFL Playoffs (Baltimore Ravens)
2014	NFL Playoffs (Baltimore Ravens)
2013	Capital One Bowl (Wisconsin)
2012	Rose Bowl (Wisconsin)
2012	Big Ten Championship Game (Wisconsin)
2011	Rose Bowl (Wisconsin)
2011	Big Ten Championship Game (Wisconsin)
2009	Insight Bowl (Minnesota)
2008	Insight Bowl (Minnesota)
2006	Poinsettia Bowl (NIU)
2005	MAC Championship Game (NIU)
2004	Outback Bowl (Wisconsin)
2003	Music City Bowl (Wisconsin)

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1999-2002	NIU (Tailback)
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EDUCATION

College	B.S., NIU, 2002
	M.S., Wisconsin, 2005
High School	Bishop Luers (Ind.), 1999

PERSONAL

Birthplace	Jersey City, N.J.
Hometown	Fort Wayne, Ind.
Family	Wife, Cheynnitha, daughter Tierra; son Thomas Douglas

YEAR-BY-YEAR NIU RECORD

Year	Overall	MAC	Finish
2019	5-7	4-4	3rd, West
2020*	0-6	0-6	6th, West
2021	9-5	6-2	MAC Champions
2022	1-2	0-0	
Total	15-20	10-12	

*Season shortened due to COVID-19

NIU COACHING STAFF

DERRICK JACKSON

Associate Head Coach/
Co-Defensive Coordinator/Safeties
Fourth Season at NIU
Duke

Game Location: Booth



ERIC EIDSNESS

Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
Fourth Season at NIU
Sioux Falls

Game Location: Booth



NICK BENEDETTO

Co-Defensive Coordinator/Cornerbacks
First Season at NIU
Sioux Falls

Game Location: Field



NIC McKISSIC-LUKE

Run Game Coordinator/Running Backs/
Special Teams Coordinator
Third Season at NIU
Alabama A&M

Game Location: Field



ROBERT WIMBERLY

Executive Asst. Coach/Linebackers
Fourth Season at NIU
Alabama A&M

Game Location: Field



DARYL AGPALSA

Run Game Specialist/Offensive Line
Fourth Season at NIU
Linfield

Game Location: Field



JORDAN GIGLI

Defensive Line/Recruiting Coordinator
Fourth Season at NIU
Trine

Game Location: Field



JOSEPH HAWKINS

Wide Receivers
First Season at NIU
Norfolk State

Game Location: Field



TRAVIS MOORE

Defensive Ends
Fourth Season at NIU
NIU

Game Location: Field



JASON ONYEBUAGU

Tight Ends/Co-Special Teams
Coordinator
Second Season at NIU
NIU

Game Location: Booth



NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

NIU vs. Kentucky

FIRST MEETING

NIU VS. THE SEC

vs. AlabamaNIU leads series 1-0
Last Meeting.....9/20/03 at Alabama: NIU 19, Alabama 16

vs. Arkansas Arkansas leads series 2-0
Last Meeting.....9/20/14 at Arkansas: Arkansas 52, NIU 14

vs. Auburn Auburn leads series 1-0
Last Meeting.....9/23/2000 at Auburn: Auburn 31, NIU 14

vs. FloridaFlorida leads series 2-0
Last Meeting..... 11/4/95 at Florida: Florida 58, NIU 20

vs. MississippiMississippi leads series 1-0
Last Meeting..... 11/13/93 at Mississippi: Mississippi 44, NIU 0

vs. TennesseeTennessee leads series 1-0
Last Meeting.....10/4/08 at Tennessee: Tennessee 13, NIU 9

vs. VanderbiltVanderbilt leads series 5-0
Last Meeting:.....9/17/22 at NIU: Vanderbilt 38, NIU 28

KENTUCKY WILDCATS

Head Coach (Alma Mater/Year)..... Mark Stoops
..... (Iowa, 1989)

Record at Kentucky/Years62-53/9th

Career Record/Years.....Same

2021 Record10-3

Conference Record/Finish5-3/2nd-East

Location Lexington, Ky.

Enrollment.....30,000

Conference Southeastern

Colors..... Blue and White

Stadium..... Kroger Field

Surface/CapacityUBU Speed Series synthetic turf/61,000

Chancellor Dr. Eli Capilouto

Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart

Athletics Website.....UKathletics.com

Twitter.....@UKFootball

KENTUCKY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Name **Contact Information**

Susan Lax.....slax0@uky.edu@vanderbilt.edu

.....859-608-5019

KENTUCKY 2022 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Day, Date	Opponent (TV)	Time (CT)
Sat., Sept. 3	MIAMI [OHIO] (ESPN+)	W, 37-13
Sat., Sept. 10	at #12/19 Florida (ESPN)	W, 26-16
Sat., Sept. 17	YOUNGSTOWN STATE (SECN)	W, 31-0
Sat., Sept. 24	NIU (ESPN2)	6 PM
Sat., Oct. 1	at Ole Miss*	TBA
Sat., Oct. 8	SOUTH CAROLINA*	TBA
Sat., Oct. 15	MISSISSIPPI STATE*	TBA
Sat., Oct. 29	at Tennessee*	TBA
Sat., Nov. 5	at Missouri*	TBA
Sat., Nov. 12	VANDERBILT*	TBA
Sat., Nov. 19	GEORGIA*	TBA
Sat., Nov. 26	LOUISVILLE	TBA

*-Southeastern Conference Game

TEAM COMPARISON

	NIU	UK
Scoring Off./G	32.3	31.3
Scoring Def./G	34.3	9.7
Rush Yds./G	154.7	74.3
Rush Defense/G	148.3	101.7
Pass Yards/G	218.0	294.0
Pass Defense/G	284.3	152.0
Total Offense/G	372.7	368.3
Total Defense/G	432.7	253.7
INT /Opp. INT	2/3	4/3
Sacks By/Allowed	5/1	6/11
3rd Down Off/Def	48.6%/56.8%	37.5%/17.5%
Red Zone Off/Def	100%/100%	81.3%/66.7%
Kickoff Return Avg.	17.9	60.5
Punt Return Avg.	3.5	6.4
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	5-1
Penalties/Yds. Game	21/60.7	16/38.0
Field Goals	2-4	6-7

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

NIU PLAYERS TO WATCH

1 ANTARIO BROWN

RB | 5-10 | 218 | So. | Savannah, Ga. | Beach HS

• Doak Walker Award Watchlist...Named to Pro Football Focus' preseason Honorable Mention All-MAC team...Fifth in the MAC in rushing...Has scored a touchdown in seven of his last eight games...Ran for a 51-yard touchdown last week against Vanderbilt, the longest run of his career...Averaged over six yards per carry in his freshman season...Rushed for 101 yards on 16 carries in his first career game on Oct. 2, 2021 against Eastern Michigan...Rushed for over 100 yards against Coastal Carolina in the Cure Bowl, carrying the ball 12 times for 105 yards and a touchdown.

Year	G/GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Lg
2022	3/3	41	203	5.0	3	51
Career	12/5	122	741	6.1	8	51

6 CJ BROWN

S | 5-11 | 194 | So.-C | Canton, Mich. | Walled Lake Western HS

• Named to Jim Thorpe, Nagurski, and Bednarik Award watchlists in the preseason...Named to Pro Football Focus' preseason Honorable Mention All-MAC team...Tied for fourth in the MAC with 9.0 tackles per game...Led all players with 13 tackles last week vs. Vanderbilt, adding a fumble recovery and pass breakup...Has five double-digit tackle games...Had eight tackles in NIU's season-opening win over Eastern Illinois...First Team All-MAC selection in 2021 after leading NIU with 109 tackles...Had 10 tackles in first career start against Wyoming...Made 13 tackles, with 1.5 tackles for loss, in overtime win at Buffalo...Had a season-high 14 tackles against Western Michigan...Returned his first career interception 26 yards for a touchdown in the MAC Championship game against Kent State, adding 10 tackles and a sack to earn Defensive Player of the Game.

Year	G/GS	Solo	Asst.	Total	TFL	INT	PBU
2022	3/3	9	18	27	0.0	0	1
Career	23/18	76	71	147	4.0	1	3

70 MARQUES COX

LT | 6-6 | 309 | Jr.-R | Peoria, Ill. | Peoria HS

• A First Team All-MAC selection to Pro Football Focus' All-MAC teams in preseason...Has started 32 straight games at left tackle dating back to Sept. 28, 2019 at Vanderbilt...Most senior member of an offensive line that has allowed one sack in the first three games of the 2022 season...Named to Phil Steele's All-MAC fourth team in 2021 after starting all 14 games at left tackle...One of four NIU offensive linemen to start each game in 2021...Anchored an offensive line that paved the way for the fourth-best rushing offense in FBS (241.4 yards/game), while also allowing the second-fewest sacks in the country.

14 JORDAN GANDY

CB | 5-10 | 182 | Jr. | DeKalb, Ill. | DeKalb HS/South Dakota State

• Named to Pro Football Focus' All-MAC First Team in preseason...Forced a fumble last week against Vanderbilt and added a pass breakup and four tackles...Had seven tackles, a pass breakup and a fumble recovery at Tulsa...A third team All-MAC pick in 2021, starting all 14 games with 53 tackles, 10 pass breakups, 3.5 tackles for loss and two fumble recoveries...Earned second team All-MAC honors in 2020, leading NIU with 41 tackles and seven pass breakups in six games...Has started all 22 games in his NIU career.

Year	G/GS	Solo	Asst.	Total	TFL	QS	INT	PBU
2022	3/3	11	4	15	0.5	0	0	2
Career	31/23	76	41	117	4.0	0.0	2	20

12 ROCKY LOMBARDI

QB | 6-3 | 227 | Sr.-R | Clive, Iowa | Valley HS/Michigan State

• Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award Watchlist...2022 Team Captain...Threw for 259 yards and three touchdowns at Tulsa, adding a one-yard rushing score...Was 10-for-11 passing in the third quarter alone against the Golden Hurricane for 134 yards and a touchdown to get NIU back in the game after falling behind 24-7... Had 198 passing yards and a touchdown in the season-opening win over Eastern Illinois...Threw for over 2,500 yards and 15 touchdowns in first season in DeKalb, helping guide the Huskies to their sixth MAC championship...Broke the NIU and MAC single-game passing yards record with 532 yards at Kent State on Nov. 3, 2021, completing 33-of-57 passes with three passing touchdowns...Had 348 passing yards and three touchdowns the week prior in a 39-38 win at Central Michigan...Also rushed for 472 yards and nine touchdowns.

Year	G/GS	Rush	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Lg	Comp-Att-Int	Pct.	Yds	TD	Lg
2022	3/3	4	14	3.5	1	5	39-60-1	65.0	530	5	38
Career	38/25	173	652	3.8	10	64	398-735-23	54.1	5,029	31	75

69 NOLAN POTTER

RT | 6-6 | 309 | Jr.-R | Cedar Rapids, Iowa | Washington HS

• Outland Trophy watchlist...2022 Team Captain...Named to preseason PFF All-MAC first team...Second Team All-MAC in 2021...Started all 14 games last season, one of four NIU offensive linemen to do that...Has started 23 consecutive games at right tackle on an offensive line that's allowed one sack through three games...First team All-MAC by Pro Football Network, which named NIU as the league's top offensive line in 2021...Helped lead NIU to 241.4 rushing yards per game, fourth-most in FBS...NIU's offensive line also allowed 10 sacks in 14 games, second-fewest in the country.

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

NIU PLAYERS TO WATCH

11 KYLE PUGH

LB | 6-0 | 226 | Sr.-6 | Chicago Heights, Ill. | Bloom Township HS

• 2022 Team Captain...In his eighth year in the program...Has 12 tackles last week against Vanderbilt, his first double-digit tackles game since 2020...Made eight tackles in season-opening win over Eastern Illinois, his first game action since the 2020 season...Sat out the 2021 season after suffering an injury late in 2021 spring practice...A Third team All-MAC selection in 2020...Third on the team that season with 36 tackles...Named Second team All-MAC in 2018 when NIU won its fifth MAC title...Had a career-best 106 tackles that season...Arrived at NIU in 2015 as a true freshman and redshirted that season.

Year	G/GS	Solo	Asst.	Total	TFL	QS	INT	PBU
2022	3/3	5	18	23	0.0	0	0	0
Career	37/26	101	108	209	12.5	3.0	1	3

9 DAVEREN RAYNER

LB | 6-3 | 208 | So.-C | Indianapolis, Ind. | Lawrence Central

• Leads the MAC with 10.7 tackles per game...Led NIU with a career-high 14 tackles in the season-opening win over Eastern Illinois...Had a team-high 11 tackles at Tulsa...His 25 tackles are the most for a Huskie defender in the first two games of a season since 2012... Made 29 tackles, 24 of which were solo stops, in eight games in 2021...Started each of the first four games...Had six tackles, including a sack, in NIU's win at Georgia Tech on Sept. 4, 2021...Followed up that performance with a season-high seven tackles the next week against Wyoming...Broke up three passes his true freshman season in 2020.

Year	G/GS	Solo	Asst.	Total	TFL	QS	INT	PBU
2022	2/2	11	14	25	0.5	0	0	0
Career	16/11	45	36	81	3.5	2.0	0	3

12 ERIC ROGERS

CB | 6-2 | 184 | So.-C | Burlington, N.J. | Burlington Township HS

• Named MAC West Defensive Player of the Week on Sept. 5 after recording his. first two career interceptions in season-opening win over Eastern Illinois, adding a tackle for loss...The first Huskie to intercept two passes in a game since Jalen McKie at Akron on Nov. 1, 2018...Started the first five games of the 2021 season before suffering a season-ending injury...Had seven tackles in each of the first two games of the season at Georgia Tech (9/4/21) and against Wyoming (9/11/21)...Recovered a fumble in the second quarter of the Georgia Tech game...Made four tackles in consecutive games against Michigan, Maine and Eastern Michigan.

Year	G/GS	Solo	Asst.	Total	TFL	QS	INT	PBU
2022	3/1	4	1	5	1.0	0	2	0
Career	10/5	24	7	31	1.0	0	2	1

8 KACPER RUTKIEWICZ

WR | 5-8 | 172 | Jr. | Mount Prospect, Ill. | John Hersey HS/Illinois State

• Had his third touchdown catch of the season last week vs. Vanderbilt...Punctuated NIU's second touchdown drive against Vanderbilt with a nine-yard end-around that set up Ethan Hampton's four-yard touchdown pass to Rutkiewicz...Caught two touchdown passes at Tulsa, his first two receptions as a Huskie...Finished the game with three receptions for 45 yards...Had 38 catches for 651 yards in 28 games at Illinois State, averaging over 17 yards per reception...Made 11 catches for 155 yards in 10 games in the Fall 2021 season...Named to the 2019 Missouri Valley Football Conference All-Newcomer Team...Led the Redbirds that season with 23 receptions for 429 yards...Had a career-high 105 receiving yards in win over Northern Arizona (9/21/19).

Year	G/GS	Rcv.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Lg
2022	3/1	6	62	10.3	3	30
Career	30/11	44	713	16.2	4	64

15 COLE TUCKER

WR | 6-2 | 195 | Sr.-R | DeKalb, Ill. | DeKalb HS

• Tops in the MAC with 92.7 receiving yards per game...Led NIU with 88 receiving yards last week vs. Vanderbilt...Caught a 70-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter against the Commodores, the longest reception of his career...Set a new career-high with 123 receiving yards at Tulsa on seven receptions for his fourth career 100-yard receiving game... Had a 33-yard touchdown catch that put NIU up 28-24 early in the fourth quarter...Caught four passes for 67 yards in the season-opening victory over Eastern Illinois...Named to Pro Football Focus' preseason All-MAC third team in preseason...Third on the team in 2021 with 41 receptions, 575 receiving yards, and three touchdown catches...Set a career-high with 10 receptions in the overtime victory at Buffalo...Had six receptions for 87 yards and a touchdown against Coastal Carolina in last year's Cure Bowl.

Year	G/GS	Rcv.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Lg
2022	3/3	15	278	18.5	3	70
Career	44/27	125	1,676	13.4	9	70

30 HARRISON WAYLEE

TB | 5-10 | 192 | So.-C | Johnston, Iowa | Urbandale HS

• Doak Walker Award watch list...Led NIU with 83 rushing yards on 14 carries in season-opening win over Eastern Illinois...Accounted for 56 of NIU's 74 yards on its opening touchdown drive against the Panthers, punching in the game's first score from one yard out...Carried the ball 17 times last week against Vanderbilt...Second on the team in rushing in 2021 despite playing in only five games...Missed the final nine games due to injury...Rushed for 144 yards and a touchdown in the Huskies' season-opening win at Georgia Tech... Followed that up with a career-high 179 yards on 26 carries the next week against Wyoming with two touchdowns...Had 130 rushing yards in NIU's win over Eastern Michigan to open MAC play...Five career 100-yard rushing games.

Year	G/GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Lg	Rcv.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Lg
2022	3/0	36	152	4.2	1	54	3	11	3.7	0	7
Career	14/10	244	1,182	4.8	6	75	12	78	6.5	1	16

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

GAME 1: NIU 34, EASTERN ILLINOIS 27

September 1 | 7:00 p.m. (CT) | ESPN+
DeKalb, Ill. | Huskie Stadium | 10,864

DEKALB - The NIU Huskies built a three touchdown lead midway through the third quarter before holding off a late Eastern Illinois comeback attempt to top the Panthers 34-27 at Huskie Stadium.

NIU had a balanced run/pass attack as Rocky Lombardi threw for 192 yards on 14-of-22 passing and the Huskies combined for 187 rushing yards with running backs Mason Blakemore, Antonio Brown and Harrison Waylee each accounting for one touchdown. Shemar Thornton had a team-high six catches for 81 yards.

NIU scored on the opening possession of the contest as Waylee scored one a one-yard touchdown run to give the Huskies an early lead. Three plays earlier, Waylee went 54 yards around the left side to put NIU within striking distance at the Eastern Illinois two-yard line.

Following an Eastern Illinois field goal, NIU added to its lead on its first possession of the second quarter as Blakemore finished off a drive with a 19-yard touchdown run up the middle. The Huskies went 75 yards in eight plays to take a 14-3 lead. The Huskie defense then came up with a turnover as Eric Rogers intercepted EIU quarterback Jonah O'Brien on the first play of the next drive, giving NIU the ball on the Panther 35-yard line.

Two plays later, Brown raced 35 yards to the end zone for the score to give the Huskies a 21-3 lead with 11:27 to play in the second. Brown gained 70 yards in the contest on 13 carries. Just before halftime, Eastern Illinois added a 25-yard field goal, cutting the NIU advantage to 21-6 at the break.

NIU scored on its first drive of the second half to extend the lead to 28-6. Lombardi connected with Liam Soraghan (Dearborn, Mich./Divine Child) for a 13-yard touchdown. The Huskie signal caller was 3-of-3 on the drive for 47 yards.

The Panthers answered with a touchdown as O'Brien hit Jaelin Benefield for a 24-yard touchdown, trimming the NIU lead to 28-13 with 2:43 to play in the third.

After a 43-yard field goal from John Richardson (Orland Park, Ill./Brother Rice) gave NIU an 18-point lead early in the fourth quarter. O'Brien completed his second touchdown pass of the night, connecting with Justin Thomas from 13 yards out, as Eastern Illinois cut the NIU lead to 31-20 with just under 10 minutes left to play.

An 11-play, 62-yard Huskie drive ended with a Richardson field goal with 3:39 remaining as the Huskies regained a two-touchdown lead.

Eastern Illinois answered once again as the Panthers needed just 1:29 to go 74 yards in five plays, capped by O'Brien's third touchdown pass of the night, this time eight yards to Jay Vallie, to bring the visitors within one score. The Panthers got the ball back with under a minute to go but time ran out on Eastern Illinois' attempt to tie the game.

SCORING BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	Total
Eastern Illinois	3	3	7	14	- 27
NIU	7	14	7	6	- 34

SCORING SUMMARY

NIU - Waylee 1 rush (Richardson kick), 1st 10:41 (8-74, 4:13)
 EIU - Galloway 34 FG, 1st 0:20 (13-55, 7:06)
 NIU - Blakemore 19 rush (Richardson kick), 2nd 11:48 (8-75, 3:25)
 NIU - A. Brown 35 rush (Richardson kick), 2nd 11:27 (2-35, 0:15)
 EIU - Galloway 25 FG, 2nd 0:04 (7-40, 3:10)
 NIU - Soraghan 13 pass from Lombardi (Richardson kick), 3rd 5:59 (8-64, 4:27)
 EIU - Benefield 24 pass from O'Brien (Galloway kick), 3rd 2:43 (6-82, 3:11)
 NIU - Richardson 43 FG, 4th 12:15 (11-49, 5:21)
 EIU - Thomas 13 pass from O'Brien (Galloway kick), 4th 9:58 (7-85, 2:12)
 NIU - Richardson 38 FG, 4th 3:39 (11-62, 6:12)
 EIU - Vallie 8 pass from O'Brien (Galloway kick), 4th 2:04 (5-74, 1:29)

TEAM & INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

	EIU.....	NIU.....	
First Downs (R-P)	25 (7-16)	19 (7-10)	Rushing - EIU: Pierre 14-100, Benefield 10-63, O'Brien 6-2; NIU: Waylee 14-83, A. Brown 13-70, Blakemore 5-35, Lombardi 1-0.
Rushes-Net Yards	30-165	34-187	Passing - EIU: O'Brien 25-34-2-276, 3; NIU: Lombardi 14-22-0-192, 1.
Passing Yards	276	192	Receiving - EIU: Thomas 6-83, Manaves 5-22, Benefield 4-57, Hill 4-39, Cooks 3-32, Cooper 2-35, Vallie 1-8; NIU: Thornton 6-81, Tucker 4-67, Gumbs 1-13, Soraghan 1-13, Joiner 1-11, Waylee 1-7.
Passes (C-A-I)	25-35-2	14-22-0	Tackles - EIU: Tolbert 11, Vincent 8; NIU: Rayner 14, Dolphin 9.
Plays-Total Yards	65-441	56-379	
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0	
Penalties-Yards	8-70	7-73	
Kickoff Returns-Yds	4-61	4-66	
Punt Returns-Yds	0-0	1-4	
3rd Down Conversions	8-12	6-11	
4th Down Conversions	0-1	0-0	
Punts-Average	1-54.0	2-42.5	
Possession Time	30:27	29:33	
Sacks By-Yards	0-0	1-11	
Red Zone Scores-Chances	4-4	4-4	

GAME 2: TULSA 38, NIU 35

September 10 | 6:00 p.m. (CT) | ESPN+
Tulsa, Okla. | H.A. Chapman Stadium | 22,113

TULSA, Okla. - In the end, the Northern Illinois University Huskies came up one play short. Leading 35-31 after a furious second-half comeback that included an on-side kick recovery, a recovery of a muffed punt, a critical stop on four-and-one and four touchdowns, Tulsa's Steven Anderson scored on a one-yard run with 58 seconds to play to give the Golden Hurricane a 38-31 win over NIU at H.A. Chapman Stadium Saturday night.

Needing a field goal to extend the game, NIU got to its 45 on a Rocky Lombardi to Shemar Thornton completion before Lombardi's third down pass bounced off the hands of its intended receiver and into the arms of TU's Tyon Davis to seal the Tulsa victory.

NIU had a chance to do the same on its previous possession after the Huskie defense made its second fourth-and-one stop of the game with Kyle Pugh stuffing Anderson, giving the ball back to the NIU offense at its 46-yard line. Three Antonio Brown runs picked up just six yards and on fourth and four, Lombardi's quick out to George Gumbs fell incomplete.

Trailing 24-7, the Huskies turned the game around in the third quarter, beginning with the opening drive. Lombardi connected with Tucker for 20 yards on the first play and three Brown rushes left NIU at the Tulsa 37. Mason Blakemore picked up seven on the ground before Lombardi found Kacper Rutkiewicz in the left corner of the end zone for a 30-yard pass and his second touchdown of the game.

Hammock then went into his bag of tricks and pulled out a John Richardson on-side kick as the Huskie kicker dribbled the ball forward the requisite 10 yards, then fell on the ball. NIU took seven plays to drive for its third touchdown, trimming Tulsa's lead to three, 24-21. Lombardi completed passes to Liam Soraghan, Shemar Thornton and Kacper Rutkiewicz on the drive with Brown going the final eight yards for the touchdown.

After Tulsa missed a 40-yard field goal on its next drive, NIU took the lead for the first time with an eight-play, 78-yard drive. The Huskies were helped by a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct call that turned a first and 25 from the NIU seven into a first and 10. Lombardi connected with Tucker on back-to-back plays - for 10 and 28 yards - to the NIU 49. Fabian McCray and Harrison Waylee caught passes of 12 and seven yards as the quarter ended. On third and four from the Tulsa 33, Lombardi scrambled forward to avoid the rush and completed a pass to Tucker who found an angle into the end zone for a 33-yard score and a 28-24 NIU lead.

Tucker finished with a career high 123 yards on seven catches. Lombardi completed 18-of-31 passes for 259 yards and three touchdowns while Brown led the NIU rushing attack with 73 yards on 20 carries. Daveren Rayner led NIU in tackles with 11 and the Huskies recorded seven tackles for loss and two sacks.

SCORING BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	Total
NIU	0	7	14	14	- 35
Tulsa	7	17	0	14	- 38

SCORING SUMMARY

TU - Santana 14 pass from Brin (Long kick), 1st 10:13 (12-75, 4:47)
 TU - Long 28 FG, 2nd 13:02 (10-30, 4:41)
 TU - Santana 25 pass from Brin (Long kick), 2nd 8:15 (8-71, 3:11)
 NIU - Rutkiewicz 9 pass from Lombardi (Richardson kick), 2nd 2:17 (6-44, 2:50)
 TU - Epps 20 pass from Brin (Long kick), 2nd 0:49 (4-69, 1:22)
 NIU - Rutkiewicz 30 pass from Lombardi (Richardson kick), 3rd 11:44 (6-75, 3:16)
 NIU - A. Brown 8 rush (Richardson kick), 3rd 8:54 (7-54, 2:48)
 NIU - Tucker 33 pass from Lombardi (Richardson kick), 4th 14:50 (8-78, 4:18)
 TU - Stokes 1 pass from Brin (Long kick), 4th 10:36 (10-75, 4:14)
 NIU - Lombardi 1 rush (Richardson kick), 4th 5:57 (7-40, 3:40)
 TU - Anderson 1 rush (Long kick), 4th 0:58 (5-52, 0:56)

TEAM & INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

	NIU.....	Tulsa.....	
First Downs (R-P)	19 (6-11)	23 (6-14)	Rushing - NIU: A. Brown 20-73, Blakemore 10-30, Waylee 5-17, Lombardi 2-6; TU: Anderson 18-58, Gary 8-36, Jackson 2-8, Brin 7-7, Stokes 1-0.
Rushes-Net Yards	37-126	37-107	Passing - NIU: Lombardi 18-31-1-259, 3; TU: Brin 19-32-1-322, 4.
Passing Yards	259	322	Receiving - NIU: Tucker 7-123, Rutkiewicz 3-45, Thornton 2-31, Soraghan 2-26, Blakemore 2-15, McCray 1-12, Waylee 1-7; TU: Stokes 8-135, Santana 4-87, Jones 4-61, Epps 3-39.
Passes (C-A-I)	18-31-1	19-32-1	Tackles - NIU: Rayner 11, Gandy 7; TU: Powers 13, Sawyer 8.
Plays-Total Yards	68-385	69-429	
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1	
Penalties-Yards	9-84	4-56	
Kickoff Returns-Yds	3-45	2-19	
Punt Returns-Yds	1-3	4-47	
3rd Down Conversions	7-14	6-13	
4th Down Conversions	0-1	2-3	
Punts-Average	4-46.5	1-57.0	
Possession Time	32:00	28:00	
Sacks By-Yards	4-16	0-0	
Red Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	5-5	

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

GAME 3: VANDERBILT 38, NIU 28

September 17 | 2:30 p.m. (CT) | CBS Sports Network
DeKalb, Ill. | Huskie Stadium | 14,110

DEKALB – A second-half rally by the Vanderbilt Commodores led the visitors to a 38-28 victory of the NIU football team at Huskie Stadium.

The two teams traded touchdowns to start the game, with NIU tying the game at 14-14 late in the second quarter. With the Huskies driving into Vanderbilt territory, Rocky Lombardi (Clive, Iowa/Valley/Michigan State) ran for eight yards to the Commodores 15-yard line but was injured on the play. Ethan Hampton came into the game and led the Huskies to the end zone, throwing a four-yard touchdown pass to Kacper Rutkiewicz (Mount Prospect, Ill./Hersey/Illinois State) for the tying score at the 5:32 mark. The Huskie defense forced a three-and-out on Vanderbilt's next possession and had the ball at their own 19 with 3:49 left until halftime.

Led by strong running from Harrison Waylee (Johnston, Iowa/Urbandale) and three straight completions by Hampton, NIU got to midfield in three minutes. On second down and three from the NIU 49 running back Antario Brown (Savannah, Ga./Beach) got loose for a 51-yard touchdown, the longest of his career, to give NIU a 21-14 lead with 0:37 to go until the break.

The Huskies were able to extend their lead on the first possession of the second half. From its own 25, NIU took just three plays to find the end zone again. Hampton connected with Cole Tucker (DeKalb, Ill./DeKalb), who caught a two yard pass and weaved his way across and down the field, accompanied by several of his fellow receivers, for a 70-yard touchdown. The play put NIU up 28-14 with 13:37 left in the third quarter.

Vanderbilt drove into Huskie territory on its first drive of the half, but the NIU defense came up with its fifth turnover of the season. Commodores quarterback AJ Swann completed a pass to Jayden McGowan to the 26-yard line, where Jordan Gandy (DeKalb, Ill./DeKalb/South Dakota State) knocked the ball free from McGowan and C.J. Brown (Canton, Mich./Walled Lake Western) recovered the fumble to give NIU the ball at its own 23 after a penalty negated a long return.

The Commodores got back within seven points late in the third quarter. On fourth-and-four from the NIU 21-yard line, Swann connected with running back Ray Davis for a 21-yard touchdown pass to make the score 28-21 with 6:44 to go in the quarter. Vanderbilt's defense forced a turnover on downs on NIU's next drive, stopping Waylee behind the line of scrimmage on fourth-and-1 from the Huskies' 34.

Swann needed just one play to tie the game, connecting with Will Sheppard for a 31-yard touchdown pass that put the score at 28-28 with 4:31 left in the third. Vanderbilt took the lead after a six-play, 70-yard drive capped by a Sheppard 13-yard touchdown from Swann that put the Commodores up 35-28 with just over a minute to go in the quarter.

SCORING BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	Total
Vanderbilt	7	7	21	3	- 38
NIU	7	14	7	0	- 28

SCORING SUMMARY

VU - Schoenwald 3 pass from Swann (Bulovas kick), 1st 7:54 (12-80, 7:02)
 NIU - Tucker 1 pass from Lombardi (Richardson kick), 1st 4:56 (6-65, 2:58)
 VU - Davis 3 rush (Bulovas kick), 2nd 14:12 (13-75, 5:44)
 NIU - Rutkiewicz 4 pass from Hampton (Richardson kick), 2nd 5:32 (14-75, 8:40)
 NIU - A. Brown 51 rush (Richardson kick), 2nd 0:37 (7-81, 3:13)
 NIU - Tucker 70 pass from Hampton (Richardson kick), 3rd 13:37 (3-75, 1:23)
 VU - Davis 21 pass from Swann (Bulovas kick), 3rd 6:44 (7-37, 2:50)
 VU - Sheppard 31 pass from Swann (Bulovas kick), 3rd 4:31 (1-31, 0:06)
 VU - Sheppard 13 pass from Swann (Bulovas kick), 3rd 1:07 (6-70, 2:09)
 VU - Bulovas 35 FG, 4th 12:21 (6-20, 2:29)

TEAM & INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

	VU.....NIU	
First Downs (R-P)	21 (8-13).....17 (7-7)	Rushing - VU: Davis 23-116, Gillespie 10-48, Swann 3-14; NIU: A. Brown 8-60, Waylee 17-52, Rutkiewicz 2-21, Lombardi
Rushes-Net Yards	39-173.....31-151	1-8, Hampton 2-6, Blakemore 1-4.
Passing Yards	255.....203	Passing - VU: Swann 18-28-0-255, 4; NIU: Hampton 12-19-1-124, 2, Lombardi: 7-7-0-79, 1.
Passes (C-A-I)	18-28-0.....19-26-1	Receiving - VU: Sheppard 10-171, McGowan 4-43, Davis 3-38, Schoenwald 1-3; NIU: Thornton 5-37, Tucker 4-88, McCray 3-46, Rutkiewicz 3-17, Travis 1-13, Dozier 1-3, Tewes 1-2, Waylee 1-(-3).
Plays-Total Yards	67-428.....57-354	Tackles - VU: Orji 12, Russell 6; NIU: C.J. Brown 13, Pugh 12.
Fumbles-Lost	1-1.....0-0	
Penalties-Yards	5-50.....5-40	
Kickoff Returns-Yds	3-53.....2-32	
Punt Returns-Yds	2-22.....0-0	
3rd Down Conversions	7-14.....5-12	
4th Down Conversions	2-2.....1-3	
Punts-Average	2-51.5.....3-47.0	
Possession Time	30:44.....29:16	
Sacks By-Yards	1-1.....0-0	
Red Zone Scores-Chances	4-4.....2-2	

NIU FOOTBALL 2022 STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	NIU	OPP
SCORING	97	103
Points Per Game	32.3	34.3
Points Off Turnovers	21	0
FIRST DOWNS	56	69
Rushing	20	21
Passing	28	43
Penalty	8	5
RUSHING YARDAGE	464	445
Yards gained rushing	481	492
Yards lost rushing	17	47
Rushing Attempts	102	106
Average Per Rush	4.5	4.2
Average Per Game	154.7	148.3
TDs Rushing	6	2
PASSING YARDAGE	654	853
Comp-Att-Int	51-79-2	62-95-3
Average Per Pass	8.3	9.0
Average Per Catch	12.8	13.8
Average Per Game	218.0	284.3
TDs Passing	7	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	1118	1298
Total Plays	181	201
Average Per Play	6.2	6.5
Average Per Game	372.7	432.7
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	8-143	9-133
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	2-7	5-69
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	3-0	2-35
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	17.9	14.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	3.5	13.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	0.0	17.5
FUMBLES-LOST	1-0	2-2
PENALTIES-Yards	21-182	17-176
Average Per Game	60.7	58.7
PUNTS-Yards	9-412	4-214
Average Per Punt	45.8	53.5
Net punt average	38.1	51.8
KICKOFFS-Yards	17-1022	20-1182
Average Per Kick	60.1	59.1
Net kick average	40.5	40.7
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	30:17	29:43
3RD-DOWN Conversions	18/37	21/37
3rd-Down Pct	49%	57%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	1/4	4/6
4th-Down Pct	25%	67%
SACKS BY-Yards	5-27	1-1
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	13	13
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	2-4	4-5
ON-SIDE KICKS	1-1	0-0
RED-ZONE SCORES	(9-9) 100%	(13-13) 100%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(8-9) 89%	(9-13) 69%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(13-13) 100%	(13-13) 100%
ATTENDANCE	49948	44226
Games/Avg Per Game	4/12487	2/22113
Neutral Site Games		0/0

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
NIU	14	35	28	20	0	97
Opponents	17	27	28	31	0	103

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Avg/G
BROWN, Antario	3	41	207	4	203	5.0	3	51	67.7
WAYLEE, Harrison	3	36	161	9	152	4.2	1	54	50.7
BLAKEMORE, Mason	3	16	71	2	69	4.3	1	19	23.0
RUTKIEWICZ, Kacper	3	2	21	0	21	10.5	0	12	7.0
LOMBARDI, Rocky	3	4	14	0	14	3.5	1	8	4.7
HAMPTON, Ethan	1	2	7	1	6	3.0	0	7	6.0
TEAM	3	1	0	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	-0.3
Total.....	0	102	481	17	464	4.5	6	54	0.0
Opponents.....	0	106	492	47	445	4.2	2	42	0.0

PASSING	G	Effic.	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/G
LOMBARDI, Rocky	3	163.37	39-60-1	65.0	530	5	38	176.7
HAMPTON, Ethan	1	142.19	12-19-1	63.2	124	2	70	124.0
Total.....	0	158.27	51-79-2	64.6	654	7	70	0.0
Opponents.....	0	172.58	62-95-3	65.3	853	11	42	0.0

RECEIVING	G	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Avg/G
TUCKER, Cole	3	15	278	18.5	3	70	92.7
THORNTON, Shemar	3	13	149	11.5	0	38	49.7
RUTKIEWICZ, Kacper	3	6	62	10.3	3	30	20.7
MCCRAY, Fabian	3	4	58	14.5	0	33	19.3
SORAGHAN, Liam	3	3	39	13.0	1	17	13.0
WAYLEE, Harrison	3	3	11	3.7	0	7	3.7
BLAKEMORE, Mason	3	2	15	7.5	0	21	5.0
TRAVIS, Messiah	3	1	13	13.0	0	13	4.3
GUMBS, George	3	1	13	13.0	0	13	4.3
JOINER, Miles	2	1	11	11.0	0	11	5.5
DOZIER, Billy	3	1	3	3.0	0	3	1.0
TEWES, Tristen	1	1	2	2.0	0	2	2.0
Total.....	0	51	654	12.8	7	70	0.0
Opponents.....	0	62	853	13.8	11	42	0.0

TOTAL OFFENSE	G	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg/G
LOMBARDI, Rocky	3	64	14	530	544	181.3
BROWN, Antario	3	41	203	0	203	67.7
WAYLEE, Harrison	3	36	152	0	152	50.7
HAMPTON, Ethan	1	21	6	124	130	130.0
BLAKEMORE, Mason	3	16	69	0	69	23.0
RUTKIEWICZ, Kacper	3	2	21	0	21	7.0
TEAM	3	1	-1	0	-1	-0.3
Total.....	0	181	464	654	1118	0.0
Opponents.....	0	201	445	853	1298	0.0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
RUTKIEWICZ, Kacper	1	3	3.0	0	3
TUCKER, Cole	1	4	4.0	0	4
Total.....	2	7	3.5	0	4
Opponents.....	5	69	13.8	0	25

FUMBLE RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
GANDY, Jordan	1	0	0.0	0	0
BROWN, C.J.	1	12	12.0	0	12
Total.....	2	12	6.0	0	12
Opponents.....	0	0	0.0	0	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
ROGERS, Eric	2	0	0.0	0	0
JAMMEH, Muhammad	1	4	4.0	0	4
Total.....	3	4	1.3	0	4
Opponents.....	1	0	0.0	0	0

KICK RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
BLAKEMORE, Mason	8	143	17.9	0	26
Total.....	8	143	17.9	0	26
Opponents.....	9	133	14.8	0	21

NIU FOOTBALL 2022 STATISTICS

2022 LONG PLAYS

No.	Long
NIU	11 70 PASS TD, Hampton to Tucker vs. Vanderbilt, 9/17
Rushing	3 54, Waylee vs. Eastern Illinois, 9/1
Waylee	1 54 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9/1
A. Brown	2 51 TD vs. Vanderbilt, 9/17
Passing	7 70 TD, Hampton to Tucker vs. Vanderbilt, 9/17
by Lombardi	6 38 to Thornton vs. Eastern Illinois, 9/1
by Hampton	1 70 TD to Tucker vs. Vanderbilt, 9/17
to McCray	1 33 from Lombardi vs. Vanderbilt, 9/17
to Tucker	4 70 TD from Hampton vs. Vanderbilt, 9/17
to Rutkiewicz	1 30 TD from Lombardi at Tulsa, 9/10
to Thornton	1 38 from Lombardi vs. Eastern Illinois, 9/1
Returns	1 26 KR by Blakemore vs. Eastern Illinois, 9/1
Blakemore	1 26 KR vs. Eastern Illinois, 9/1
OPPONENT	11 42 O'Brien to Thomas, Eastern Illinois, 9/1 42 RUSH by Pierre, Eastern Illinois, 9/1
Rushing	1 42 Pierre, Eastern Illinois, 9/1
Passing	8 42 O'Brien to Thomas, Eastern Illinois, 9/1
Returns	2 35 INT Return Wright vs. Vanderbilt, 9/17

* 25 Yards or Longer

SCORING	TD	FGs	|----- PATs -----|				DXP	Saf	Pts
			Kick	Rush	Rcv	Pass			
RICHARDSON, John	0	2-4	13-13	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	19
BROWN, Antario	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	18
TUCKER, Cole	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	18
RUTKIEWICZ, Kacper	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	18
SORAGHAN, Liam	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
WAYLEE, Harrison	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
BLAKEMORE, Mason	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
LOMBARDI, Rocky	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Total.....	13	2-4	13-13	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	97
Opponents.....	13	4-5	13-13	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	103

ALL PURPOSE	G	Rush	Rec	PR	KOR	IR	Tot	Avg/G
TUCKER, Cole	3	0	278	4	0	0	282	94.0
BLAKEMORE, Mason	3	69	15	0	143	0	227	75.7
BROWN, Antario	3	203	0	0	0	0	203	67.7
WAYLEE, Harrison	3	152	11	0	0	0	163	54.3
THORNTON, Shemar	3	0	149	0	0	0	149	49.7
RUTKIEWICZ, Kacper	3	21	62	3	0	0	86	28.7
MCCRAY, Fabian	3	0	58	0	0	0	58	19.3
SORAGHAN, Liam	3	0	39	0	0	0	39	13.0
LOMBARDI, Rocky	3	14	0	0	0	0	14	4.7
GUMBS, George	3	0	13	0	0	0	13	4.3
TRAVIS, Messiah	3	0	13	0	0	0	13	4.3
JOINER, Miles	2	0	11	0	0	0	11	5.5
HAMPTON, Ethan	1	6	0	0	0	0	6	6.0
DOZIER, Billy	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	1.0
TEWES, Tristen	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	2.0
TEAM	3	-1	0	0	0	0	-1	-0.3
Total.....	0	464	654	7	143	0	1268	422.7
Opponents.....	0	445	853	69	133	35	1535	511.7

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TB	FC	I20	50+	Blkd
FOLEY, Tom	9	412	45.8	53	0	2	1	2	0
Total.....	9	412	45.8	53	0	2	1	2	0
Opponents.....	4	214	53.5	57	0	0	2	3	0

KICKOFFS	No.	Yds	Avg	TB	OB	Retn	Net	YdLn
RICHARDSON, John	17	1022	60.1	8	0			
Total.....	17	1022	60.1	8	0	133	40.5	24
Opponents.....	20	1182	59.1	9	1	143	40.7	24

FIELD GOALS	FG-FGA	Pct	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Lg	Blk
RICHARDSON, John	2-4	50.0	0-0	0-0	1-1	1-3	0-0	43	0

FG SEQUENCE	NIU	Opponents
Eastern Ill.	(43),(38),43	(34),(25)
Tulsa	48	(28),40
Vanderbilt	-	(35)

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made.

NIU FOOTBALL 2022 DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	|-----Tackles-----|				|-Sacks-|		|---Pass Def---|		|-Fumbles-|		Blkd		
	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL/Yds	No-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	QBH	FR-Yds	FF	Kick	Safety
9 RAYNER, Daveren	3	13	19	32	0.5-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6 BROWN, C.J.	3	9	18	27	.	.	.	1	.	1-12	.	.	.
11 PUGH, Kyle	3	5	18	23	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
14 GANDY, Jordan	3	11	4	15	0.5-2	.	.	2	.	1-0	1	.	.
21 JAMMEH, Muhammad	3	4	10	14	.	.	1-0	1	.	.	.	.	.
2 BYRD, JaVaughn	3	10	4	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4 THOMAS, Raishein	3	2	10	12	1.5-9	1.5-9	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
26 DOLPHIN, Jaden	2	3	7	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
38 RATTIN, Nick	3	3	5	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
95 O'MALLEY, Devonte	3	2	6	8	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
5 KENNEDY, Michael	3	2	5	7	1.5-4	1.0-4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
17 FRYE, Louis	3	.	7	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7 HANSEN, Jordan	3	1	5	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15 GREEN-MAY, Izayah	3	4	2	6	2.5-10	1.0-6	.	.	3	.	.	.	.
12 ROGERS, Eric	3	4	1	5	1.0-1	.	2-0	1	.	.	.	.	.
3 LAFAYETTE, Devin	2	1	4	5	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1 ESTER, James	3	2	2	4	1.5-7	0.5-6	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
10 TAYLOR, Demond	3	2	1	3	1.0-2	1.0-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
36 SHINHOSTER, Dayven	3	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
99 OPPONG, Pierce	3	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
10 DOZIER, Billy	3	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
52 DAVIS, Ivan	3	.	2	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
32 URWILER, Quinn	3	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22 MCGARRELL, Cyrus	2	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
51 HABERMAN, Cade	3	.	2	2	0.5-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
0 MCCRAY, Fabian	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
83 SORAGHAN, Liam	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
49 LAMPE, Brock	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
27 PORTER, Trey	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
11 TRAVIS, Messiah	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
8 GRIFFIN, Jeffrey	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total.....	0	89	140	229	11-40	5-27	3-0	6	9	2-12	1	.	.
Opponents.....	0	78	130	208	13.0-26	1-1	2-35	12	5	.	.	.	.

NIU FOOTBALL 2022 PARTICIPATION

No.	Name	GP/GS	Eastern Ill.	Tulsa	Vandy	UK	Ball St.	Toledo	EMU	Ohio	CMU	WMU	Miami	Akron
0	MCCRAY, Fabian	3/-	X	X	X									
1	BROWN, Antario	3/3	RB	RB	RB									
1	ESTER, James	3/3	DT	DT	DT									
2	BYRD, JaVaughn	3/2	CB	X	CB									
2	HAMPTON, Ethan	1/-	-	-	X									
3	BLAKEMORE, Mason	3/-	X	X	X									
3	LAFAYETTE, Devin	2/1	X	HSK	-									
4	THOMAS, Ray	3/3	DE	DE	DE									
5	KENNEDY, Michael	3/-	X	X	X									
6	BROWN, CJ	3/3	S	S	S									
7	HANSEN, Jordan	3/1	HSK	X	X									
8	GRIFFIN Jr., Jeffrey	3/-	X	X	X									
8	RUTKIEWICZ, Kacper	3/1	X	X	WR									
9	RAYNER, Daveren	3/3	LB	LB	LB									
10	DOZIER, Billy	3/-	X	X	X									
10	TAYLOR, Demond	3/-	X	X	X									
11	PUGH, Kyle	3/3	LB	LB	LB									
11	TRAVIS, Messiah	3/-	X	X	X									
12	LOMBARDI, Rocky	3/3	QB	QB	QB									
12	ROGERS, Eric	3/1	X	CB	X									
14	GANDY, Jordan	3/3	CB	CB	CB									
15	GREEN-MAY, Izayah	3/3	DE	DE	DE									
15	TUCKER, Cole	3/3	WR	WR	WR									
17	FRYE, Louis	3/1	X	X	HSK									
19	THORNTON, Shemar	3/3	WR	WR	WR									
19	VALCARCEL, Nate	3/-	X	X	X									
20	FINLEY, Jacob	1/-	-	-	X									
21	JAMMEH, Muhammad	3/3	S	S	S									
22	MCGARRELL, Cyrus	2/-	-	X	X									
26	DOLPHIN, Jaden	2/-	X	X	-									
27	PORTER, Trey	3/-	X	X	X									
30	WAYLEE, Harrison	3/-	X	X	X									
32	URWILER, Quinn	3/-	X	X	X									
36	SHINHOSTER, Dayven	3/-	X	X	X									
37	RATTIN, Joey	3/-	X	X	X									
38	RATTIN, Nick	3/-	X	X	X									
39	RICHARDSON, John	3/-	X	X	X									
41	MYLES Jr., Rashon	1/-	X	-	-									
44	KING, Ryan	3/-	X	X	X									
49	LAMPE, Brock	3/2	X	FB	X									
50	NYGRA, Pete	3/3	C	C	C									
51	HABERMAN, Cade	3/-	X	X	X									
52	DAVIS, Ivan	3/-	X	X	X									
60	BUSS, Evan	3/-	X	X	X									
65	ZSCHERNITZ, Logan	3/3	RG	RG	RG									
69	POTTER, Nolan	3/3	RT	RT	RT									
70	COX, Marques	3/3	LT	LT	LT									
74	PITCEL, Tyler	3/-	X	X	X									
75	ENGSTRAND, Leif	3/-	X	X	X									
76	CHAMPE, John	3/2	X	LG	LG									
79	LIPPE, J.J.	1/1	LG	-	-									
80	JOINER, Miles	2/1	TE	X	-									
82	TEWES, Tristen	1/1	-	-	TE									
83	SORAGHAN, Liam	3/2	TE	TE	X									
84	GUMBS, George	3/-	X	X	X									
91	HATFIELD, Isaac	3/-	X	X	X									
95	O'MALLEY, Devonte	3/3	DT	DT	DT									
96	WASKOW, Jacob	3/-	X	X	X									
97	WILLIAMS, Roy	1/-	-	X	-									
98	FOLEY, Tom	3/-	X	X	X									
99	OPPONG, Pierce	3/-	X	X	X									

X-indicates played; letters indicate position started

NIU FOOTBALL 2022 STARTERS

OFFENSIVE STARTERS GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	QB	TB	TE/FB	TE	WR	WR	WR	LT	LG	C	RG	RT
E. Illinois	Lombardi	A. Brown	Joiner	Soraghan	Tucker	Thornton		Cox	Lippe	Nygra	Zschernitz	Potter
Tulsa	Lombardi	A. Brown	Lampe	Soraghan	Tucker	Thornton		Cox	Champe	Nygra	Zschernitz	Potter
Vanderbilt	Lombardi	A. Brown		Tewes	Tucker	Thornton	Rutkiewicz	Cox	Champe	Nygra	Zschernitz	Potter
Kentucky												
Ball State												
Toledo												
E. Michigan												
Ohio												
C. Michigan												
W. Michigan												
Miami												
Akron												

DEFENSIVE STARTERS GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	DE	DT	DT	DE	LB	LB	LB	HSK	CB	S	S	CB
Eastern Illinois	R. Thomas	Ester	O'Malley	Green-May	Rayner	Pugh		Hansen	Gandy	Brown	Jammeh	Byrd
Tulsa	R. Thomas	Ester	O'Malley	Green-May	Rayner	Pugh		Lafayette	Gandy	Brown	Jammeh	Rogers
Vanderbilt	R. Thomas	Ester	O'Malley	Green-May	Rayner	Pugh		Frye	Gandy	Brown	Jammeh	Byrd
Kentucky												
Ball State												
Toledo												
E. Michigan												
Ohio												
C. Michigan												
W. Michigan												
Miami												
Akron												

CAREER GAMES PLAYED/STARTED

Name, Pos.	Class	GP	GS	Name, Pos.	Class	GP	GS	Name, Pos.	Class	GP	GS
Akanimo Asuquo, LB	Fr.-R	1	-	Jeremiah Howard, WR	So.-C	2	-	Trayvon Rudolph, WR	So.-C	20	10
Mason Blakemore, RB	So.	11	-	Muhammed Jammeh, S	Fr.-R	7	3	Kacper Rutkiewicz, WR	Jr.	3	1
Brett Bostad, FB	Jr.-R	26	2	Miles Joiner, TE	Sr.-R	11	6	Dayven Shinhoster, LB	So.	16	-
Antario Brown, RB	So.	12	5	Michael Kennedy, DE	Sr.-R	43	7	Liam Soraghan, TE	Sr.-R	36	16
C.J. Brown, S	So.-C	23	18	Ryan King, LB	Fr.-R	5	-	Demond Taylor Jr., DT	So.-R	27	12
Evan Buss, OL	So.-C	22	1	Devin Lafayette, S	Fr.-R	8	7	Tristen Tewes, LB/TE	So.-R	25	7
JaVaughn Byrd, CB	So.	17	9	Brock Lampe, FB	Fr.-R	12	1	Ray Thomas, DE	So.-C	23	20
Drew Cassens, TE	So.-C	10	-	J.J. Lippe, OL	So.-R	19	15	Shemar Thornton, WR	Sr.	3	3
John Champe, OL	So.-C	23	6	Rocky Lombardi, QB	Sr.-R	16	16	Mohamed Toure, WR	So.-R	24	4
Marques Cox, OT	Jr.-R	35	33	Fabian McCray, WR	So.-R	21	-	Messiah Travis, WR	So.-R	27	4
Ivan Davis, DE	So.-C	17	-	Cyrus McGarrell, CB	Fr.-R	7	-	Cole Tucker, WR	Sr.-R	44	27
Jaden Dolphin, S	So.-C	22	3	Rashon Myles Jr., LB	Fr.	1	-	Quinn Urwiler, LB	So.-R	3	-
Billy Dozier, WR	So.	23	2	Ty Myles, CB	Fr.-R	4	-	Trey Urwiler, WR	Fr.-R	4	-
Leif Engstrand, OT	So.-R	24	-	Makhi Nelson-Douglas, LB	So.	9	4	Nate Valcarcel, S	So.-C	16	-
James Ester, DT	So.-R	27	20	Pete Nygra, C	Fr.-R	6	3	Jacob Waskow, DT	So.-C	16	-
Jacob Finley, CB	Fr.	1	-	Devonte O'Malley, DL	So.-C	23	12	Harrison Waylee, TB	So.-C	14	10
Dustin Fletcher, QB	So.-C	3	-	Pierce Oppong, DE	So.-C	23	7	Roy Williams, DE	Fr.	1	-
Tom Foley, P	So.-R	3	-	Tyler Pitcel, OL	Fr.-R	3	-	Kanon Woodill, K	Fr.-R	2	-
Louis Frye, S	So.	13	2	Trey Porter, S	Fr.	3	-	Logan Zschernitz, OG	So.-R	27	25
Jordan Gandy, CB	Jr.	23	23	Nolan Potter, OT	Jr.-R	35	23				
Izayah Green-May, DE	Sr.-R	3	3	Jashon Prophete, CB	So.-C	17	2				
Jeffrey Griffin Jr., DT	Jr.-R	27	-	Kyle Pugh, LB	Sr.-6	37	26				
George Gumbs, WR	So.	7	-	Joey Rattin, LB	So.	3	-				
Cade Haberman, DT	So.	17	1	Nick Rattin, LB	Jr.	35	22				
Ethan Hampton, QB	Fr.-R	3	1	Daveren Rayner, LB	So.-C	17	12				
Jordan Hansen, S	So.-C	19	16	John Richardson, K	Jr.-R	37	-				
Isaac Hatfield, LS	Fr.-R	3	-	Eric Rogers, CB	So.-C	10	6				

NIU FOOTBALL 2022 SCORING DRIVES

NIU

Opponent	Plays	Yds.	TOP	Score	Qtr./Clock	Play
E. Illinois	8	74	4:13	7-0	1/10:41	Waylee 1 TD (R)
E. Illinois	8	75	3:32	14-3	2/11:48	Blakemore 1 TD (R)
E. Illinois	2	35	0:15	21-3	2/11:27	A. Brown 35 TD (R)
E. Illinois	8	64	4:27	28-6	3/5:59	Soraghan 13 TD (P)
E. Illinois	11	49	5:21	31-13	4/12:15	Richardson 43 FG
E. Illinois	11	62	6:12	34-20	4/3:39	Richardson 38 FG
Tulsa	6	44	2:50	7-17	2/2:17	Rutkiewicz 9 TD (P)
Tulsa	6	75	3:16	14-24	3/11:44	Rutkiewicz 30 TD (P)
Tulsa	7	54	2:48	21-24	3/8:54	A. Brown 8 TD (R)
Tulsa	8	78	4:18	28-24	4/14:50	Tucker 33 TD (P)
Tulsa	7	40	3:40	35-31	4/5:57	Lombardi 1 TD (R)
Vanderbilt	6	65	2:58	7-7	1/4:56	Tucker 1 TD (P)
Vanderbilt	14	75	8:40	14-14	2/5:32	Rutkiewicz 4 TD (P)
Vanderbilt	7	81	3:13	21-14	2/0:37	A. Brown 51 TD (R)
Vanderbilt	3	75	1:23	28-14	3/13:37	Tucker 70 TD (P)

OPPONENT

Opponent	Plays	Yds.	TOP	Score	Qtr./Clock	Play
E. Illinois	13	55	7:06	7-3	1/0:20	Galloway 34 FG
E. Illinois	7	40	3:10	21-6	2/0:04	Galloway 25 FG
E. Illinois	6	82	3:11	28-13	3/2:43	Benefield 24 TD (P)
E. Illinois	7	85	2:12	31-20	4/9:58	Thomas 13 TD (P)
E. Illinois	5	74	1:29	34-27	4/2:04	Vallie 8 TD (P)
Tulsa	12	75	4:47	0-7	1/10:13	Santana 14 TD (P)
Tulsa	10	30	4:41	0-10	2/13:02	Long 28 FG
Tulsa	8	71	3:11	0-17	2/8:15	Santana 25 TD (P)
Tulsa	4	69	1:22	7-24	2/0:49	Epps 20 TD (P)
Tulsa	10	75	4:14	28-31	4/10:36	Stokes 1 TD (P)
Tulsa	5	52	0:56	35-38	4/0:58	Anderson 1 TD (R)
Vanderbilt	12	80	7:02	0-7	1/7:54	Schoenwald 3 TD (P)
Vanderbilt	13	75	5:44	7-14	2/14:12	Davis 3 TD (R)
Vanderbilt	7	37	2:50	28-21	3/6:44	Davis 21 TD (P)
Vanderbilt	1	31	0:06	28-28	3/4:31	Sheppard 31 TD (P)
Vanderbilt	6	70	2:09	28-35	3/1:07	Sheppard 13 TD (P)
Vanderbilt	6	20	2:29	28-38	4/12:21	Bulovas 35 FG

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

Game	Score	---1st Downs---			Rushing	-----Passing-----			Total Off.	Punts	Fum	Penalties	3rd	Time of							
		Total	R	P	Pen	No	Yds	TD	C	A	I	Yds	TD	PI	Yds	No	Avg	No	L	No	Yds	Downs	Poss
(9-1) NIU vs. Eastern Illinois	34 27	19 25	7-10-2 7-16-2		34-187-3 30-165-0	14-22-0 25-35-2	192 276	1 3	56-379 65-441	2-42.5 1-54.0	0-0 0-0	7-73 8-70	6-of-11 8-of-12	29:26 30:27							
(9-10) NIU at Tulsa	35 38	19 23	6-11-2 6-14-3		37-126-2 37-107-1	18-31-1 19-32-1	259 322	2 4	68-385 69-429	4-46.5 1-57.0	1-0 1-1	9-84 4-56	7-of-14 6-of-13	32:00 28:00							
(9-17) NIU vs. Vanderbilt	28 38	17 21	7-7-3 8-13-0		31-151-1 39-173-1	19-26-1 18-28-0	203 255	3 4	57-354 67-428	3-47.0 2-51.5	0-0 1-1	5-40 5-50	5-of-12 7-of-14	29:16 30:44							
(9-24) NIU at Kentucky																					
(10-1) NIU at Ball State																					
(10-8) NIU vs. Toledo																					
(10-15) NIU at Eastern Michigan																					
(10-22) NIU at Ohio																					
(11-2) NIU vs. Central Michigan																					
(11-9) NIU at Western Michigan																					
(11-16) NIU vs. Miami																					
(11-26) NIU vs. Akron																					

– NIU in the 2022 NCAA and MAC Rankings –

TEAM CATEGORY	Avg./No.	NCAA	MAC	TEAM CATEGORY	Avg./No.	NCAA	MAC
Total Offense	327.7	90	6	Time of Possession	30:14	63	7
Rushing Offense	154.7	83	6	Sacks Allowed	0.33	6	1
Passing Offense	218.0	95	8	Tackles for Loss Allowed	4.33	37	2
Passing Efficiency	158.27	35	1	Fewest Penalties/Game	7.00	83	7
Completion Percentage	0.646	58	2	Fewest Penalty Yards/Game	65.67	94	10
Scoring Offense	32.3	68	4	Third Down Conversion Pct.	.486	34	3
First Downs Offense	55	99	9	Third Down Conv. Pct. Defense	.538	124	10
Red Zone Offense	1.000	1	1	Fourth Down Conversion Pct.	.250	110	11
Total Defense	372.7	90	6	Fourth Down Conv. Pct. Defense	.667	101	11
Rushing Defense	148.3	77	4				
Pass Efficiency Defense	172.58	128	12	INDIVIDUAL (Top 60)	Avg./No.	NCAA	MAC
Passing Yards Allowed	284.3	118	7	Rocky Lombardi, Pass Yards/Completion	13.59	31	2
Scoring Defense	34.3	108	7	Rocky Lombardi, Yards per Pass Attempt	8.83	29	2
Red Zone Defense	1.000	114	11	Rocky Lombardi, Completion Percentage	.650	53	3
First Downs Defense	69	102	7	Rocky Lombardi, Passing Efficiency	163.4	28	1
Net Punting	38.11	77	7	Rocky Lombardi, Passing TDs	5	58	4
Punt Returns	3.50	108	11	Kacper Rutkiewicz, Receiving TDs	3	19	1
Punt Return Defense	11.50	106	7	Cole Tucker, Receiving TDs	3	19	1
Kickoff Returns	15.89	106	9	Cole Tucker, Receiving Yards	278	28	1
Kickoff Return Defense	14.78	15	1	Cole Tucker, Receiving Yards/Game	92.7	25	1
Turnover Margin	1.00	23	2	Cole Tucker, Yards per Reception	18.53	44	3
Turnovers Gained	5	51	4	Antario Brown, Rushing TDs	3	46	3
Turnovers Lost	2	17	1	C.J. Brown, Fumbles Recovered	1	10	1
Passes Had Intercepted	2	46	3	Jordan Gandy, Fumbles Recovered	1	10	1
Passes Intercepted	3	42	2	Mason Blakemore, Combined Kick Returns	143	24	4
Fumbles Lost	0	1	1	Eric Rogers, Total Interceptions	2	5	1
Fumbles Recovered	2	52	6	Muhammad Jammey, Total Interceptions	1	39	3
Sacks	1.67	85	6	Eric Rogers, Interceptions/Game	0.7	5	1
Tackles for Loss	3.7	112	7	Muhammad Jammeh, Interceptions/Game	0.3	46	3

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

INDIVIDUAL GAME-BY-GAME STATS

RUSHING (No.-Yards/TD)

	Total	EIU	Tulsa	Vandy	UK	BallSt	Toledo	EMU	Ohio	CMU	WMU	Miami	Akron
BROWN, Antario	41-203/3	13-70/1	20-73/1	8-60/1									
WAYLEE, Harrison	36-152/1	14-83/1	5-17/0	17-52/0									
BLAKEMORE, Mason	16-69/1	5-35/1	10-30/0	1-4/0									
LOMBARDI, Rocky	4-14/1	1-0/0	2-6/1	1-8/0									
RUTKIEWICZ, Kacper	2-21/0	0-0/0	0-0/0	2-21/0									
HAMPTON, Ethan	2-6/0	DNP	DNP	2-6/0									

RECEIVING (No.-Yards/TD)

	Total	EIU	Tulsa	Vandy	UK	BallSt	Toledo	EMU	Ohio	CMU	WMU	Miami	Akron
TUCKER, Cole	15-278/3	4-67/0	7-123/1	4-88/2									
THORNTON, Shemar	13-149/0	6-81/0	2-31/0	5-37/0									
RUTKIEWICZ, Kacper	6-62/3	0-0/0	3-45/2	3-17/1									
SORAGHAN, Liam	3-39/1	1-13/1	2-26/0	0-0/0									
BLAKEMORE, Mason	2-15/0	0-0/0	2-15/0	0-0/0									
WAYLEE, Harrison	3-11/0	1-7/0	1-7/0	1-3/0									
GUMBS, George	1-13/0	1-13/0	0-0/0	0-0/0									
MCCRAY, Fabian	4-58/0	0-0/0	1-12/0	3-46/0									
JOINER, Miles	1-11/0	1-11/0	0-0/0	DNP									
TRAVIS, Messiah	1-13/0	0-0/0	0-0/0	1-13/0									
DOZIER, Billy	1-3/0	0-0/0	0-0/0	1-3/0									
TEWES, Tristen	1-2/0	DNP	DNP	1-2/0									

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-INT, Yards; TD)

Game	Lombardi	Hampton
Eastern Illinois	14-22-0, 192; 1	DNP
Tulsa	18-31-1, 259; 3	DNP
Vanderbilt	7-7-0, 79; 1	12-19-1, 124; 2
Kentucky		
Ball State		
Toledo		
Eastern Michigan		
Ohio		
Central Michigan		
Western Michigan		
Miami		
Akron		

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yards, Long; TD)

Cole Tucker	Kacper Rutkiewicz
1-4, 4; 0	0-0, 0; 0
0-0, 0; 0	1-3, 3; 0
0-0, 0; 0	0-0, 0; 0

PUNTING (No.-Average, Inside 20; Long)

Game	Tom Foley
Eastern Illinois	2-42.5, 0; 44
Tulsa	4-46.5, 0; 51
Vanderbilt	3-47.0, 1; 53
Kentucky	
Ball State	
Toledo	
Eastern Michigan	
Ohio	
Central Michigan	
Western Michigan	
Miami	
Akron	

KICK RETURNS (No.-Yards, Long; TD)

Mason Blakemore
4-66, 26; 0
2-45, 20; 0
2-32, 18; 0

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DEFENSE

Solo-Asst.	EIU	Tulsa	Vandy	UK	BallSt	Toledo	EMU	Ohio	CMU	WMU	Miami	Akron
BROWN, C.J.	3-5	4-2	2-11 FR, PBU									
BYRD, JaVaughn	5-2	0-0	5-2									
DAVIS, Ivan	0-2 PBU	0-0	0-0									
DOLPHIN, Jaden	2-7	1-0	DNP									
ESTER, James	0-2 0.5 QS	1-0 TFL	1-0									
FRYE, Louis	0-0	0-0	0-7									
GANDY, Jordan	3-1 0.5 TFL	6-1 PBU, FR	2-2 FF									
GREEN-MAY, Izayah	0-1 0.5 TFL	4-0 QS, 2 TFL	0-1									
GRIFFIN, Jeffrey	0-0	0-0	0-1									
HANSEN, Jordan	0-0	0-1	1-4									
HABERMAN, Cade	0-1 0.5 TFL	0-0	0-1									
JAMMEH, Muhammad	1-4	2-1 INT, PBU	1-5									
KENNEDY, Michael	0-3	1-1 QS, 1.5 TFL	1-1									
LAFAYETTE, Devin	0-0	1-4 0.5 TFL	0-0									
MCGARRELL, Cyrus	DNP	1-0	1-0									
O'MALLEY, Devonte	0-2	2-2	0-2									
OPPONG, Pierce	1-1	0-0	0-1									
PORTER, Trey	0-0	0-0	0-1									
PUGH, Kyle	2-6	2-1	1-11									
RATTIN, Nick	2-2	0-3	1-0									
RAYNER, Daveren	4-10 0.5 TFL	7-4	2-5									
ROGERS, Eric	1-0 2 INT, TFL	2-0	1-1 PBU									
SHINHOSTER, Dayven	1-0	1-1	0-0									
TAYLOR, Demond	0-0	2-0 QS	0-1									
THOMAS, Raishein	1-4 0.5 QS	1-4 QS	0-2									
URWILER, Quinn	1-1	0-0	0-0									

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

THE LAST TIME A HUSKIE TEAM...

RECORDED A SHUTOUT – 49-0 vs. Akron (10-26-19)
HAD AT LEAST 25 FIRST DOWNS – 29 vs. Coastal Carolina, Cure Bowl (12-17-21)
HAD AT LEAST 30 FIRST DOWNS – 32 at Kent State (11-3-21)
HAD AT LEAST 35 FIRST DOWNS – 35 vs. Ball State (10-10-15)
HAD AT LEAST 40 FIRST DOWNS – 43 vs. Ball State (11-15-11)
SCORED 40 OR MORE POINTS – 41 vs. Coastal Carolina, Cure Bowl (12-17-21)
SCORED 45 OR MORE POINTS – 47 at Kent State (11-3-21)
SCORED 50 OR MORE POINTS – 63 vs. Ball State (11-9-17)
SCORED 60 OR MORE POINTS – 63 vs. Ball State (11-9-17)
SCORED A SAFETY – Michael Kennedy, tackled RB in end zone at Eastern Michigan (12-12-20)
SCORED TWO OR MORE DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS - 2 (Fumble Recovery in End Zone; INT Return) vs. Akron (10-26-19)
GAINED 200 OR LESS YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE – 33 vs. Boise State, Poinsettia Bowl (12-23-15)
GAINED 500 OR MORE YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE – 516 vs. Coastal Carolina, Cure Bowl (12-17-21)
GAINED 600 OR MORE YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE – 663 at Kent State (11-3-21)
GAINED 100 OR LESS YARDS RUSHING – 74 vs. Central Michigan (11-11-20)
GAINED 300 OR MORE YARDS RUSHING – 335 vs. Coastal Carolina, Cure Bowl (12-17-21)
GAINED 400 OR MORE YARDS RUSHING – 433 vs. Miami (10-18-14)
THREW FOR LESS THAN 100 YARDS – 23 vs. Western Michigan (11-23-21)
THREW FOR MORE THAN 300 YARDS - 532 at Kent State (11-3-21)
DID NOT COMMIT A TURNOVER - vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1-22)
HAD A SUCCESSFUL ON-SIDE KICK - John Richardson kick & recovery at Tulsa (9-10-22)
HAD 40 MINUTES TIME OF POSSESSION – vs. Kent State, MAC Championship (12-4-21)
HELD OPPONENT TO 100 YARDS OR LESS RUSHING – 38 yards vs. Eastern Michigan (10-2-21)
HELD OPPONENT TO 50 YARDS OR LESS RUSHING – 38 yards vs. Eastern Michigan (10-2-21)
HELD OPPONENT TO NEGATIVE YARDS RUSHING – (-11) at Miami (10-24-09)
HELD OPPONENT TO 100 YARDS OR LESS PASSING – 51 yards vs. Akron (10-26-19)
HELD OPPONENT TO 200 YARDS OR LESS TOTAL OFFENSE – 145 vs. Akron (10-26-19)
HELD OPPONENT TO 150 YARDS OR LESS TOTAL OFFENSE – 145 vs. Akron (10-26-19)
HELD OPPONENT TO 100 YARDS OR LESS TOTAL OFFENSE – 64 vs. Kent State (10-8-11)
HELD AN OPPONENT WITHOUT A TOUCHDOWN – vs. Akron (10-26-19)
WAS INVOLVED IN AN OVERTIME GAME – W, 33-27, OT at Buffalo (11-17-21)

THE LAST TIME A HUSKIE OPPONENT...

HAD 35 MINUTES OF POSSESSION – 41:52, Western Michigan (11-23-21)
RETURNED A KICKOFF FOR A TOUCHDOWN – 100 yards, D'Wayne Eskridge of Western Michigan (11-28-20)
RETURNED A PUNT FOR A TOUCHDOWN – 91 yards, LaVon Brazill of Ohio (11-21-09)
RETURNED AN INTERCEPTION FOR A TOUCHDOWN – 23 yards, Chad Muma of Wyoming (9-11-21)
RETURNED A FUMBLE FOR A TOUCHDOWN – 61 yards, Mark Lee of Eastern Michigan (12-12-20)
SCORED A SAFETY – Ball State (11-10-21), Blocked NIU punt, went out of back of end zone
BLOCKED A PUNT – Hassan Littles of Ball State (11-10-21)
BLOCKED A PUNT FOR A TOUCHDOWN – Mathew Sexton (block) / Jaron Johnson (recovered ball in end zone) of Eastern Michigan (10-26-17)
BLOCKED A FIELD GOAL – Levi Watson of Eastern Illinois (9-9-17)
BLOCKED A PAT KICK – Elijah Daniel of Murray State (9-12-15)
MISSED A PAT KICK (not blocked) – Thiago Kapps of Western Michigan (11-28-20)
SHUT OUT THE HUSKIES – Navy 16, NIU 0 (11-25-08)
SHUT OUT THE HUSKIES FOR A HALF – 2nd, Toledo (12-5-20)
PASSED FOR 300 OR MORE YARDS – 322, Davis Brin of Tulsa (9-10-22)
PASSED FOR 400 OR MORE YARDS – 450, Jimmy Garoppolo of Eastern Illinois (9-21-13)
RUSHED FOR 100 OR MORE YARDS – 116, Ray Davis of Vanderbilt (9-17-22)
RUSHED FOR 200 OR MORE YARDS – 220, Donnel Pumphrey of San Diego State (9-17-16)
HAD A RUSH OF 60 YARDS OR LONGER – 60, Braydon Bennett of Coastal Carolina, Cure Bowl (12-17-21)
TWO OR MORE PLAYERS RUSHED FOR 100 YARDS – 173, Marquez Cooper and 103 Xavier Williams of Kent State (11-3-21)
HAD 10 OR MORE RECEPTIONS – 10, Will Sheppard of Vanderbilt (9-17-22)
HAD 100 OR MORE RECEIVING YARDS – 171, Will Sheppard of Vanderbilt (9-17-22)
HAD 200 OR MORE RECEIVING YARDS – 206, Skyy Moore of Western Michigan (11-23-21)

THE LAST TIME A HUSKIE PLAYER...

RETURNED THE OPENING KICKOFF FOR A TD – Aregeros Turner (97 yards) vs. Buffalo (10-22-16)
RETURNED A KICKOFF FOR A TOUCHDOWN – Trayvon Rudolph (100 yards) vs. Bowling Green (10-16-21)
RETURNED A PUNT FOR A TOUCHDOWN (NOT BLOCKED) – Perez Ashford (44 yards) at Miami (10-24-09)
RETURNED AN INTERCEPTION FOR A TOUCHDOWN – C.J. Brown (26 yards) vs. Kent State, MAC Championship (12-4-21)
RETURNED A FUMBLE FOR A TOUCHDOWN – Sutton Smith (85 yards) vs. Western Michigan (11-20-18);
Trayshon Foster (0 yards) vs. Akron (10-26-19) - *fumble recovery in end zone*
SCORED A SAFETY – Michael Kennedy (tackled RB in end zone) at Eastern Michigan (12-12-20)
A NON-QB THREW A TOUCHDOWN PASS – Michael Love (7 yards to Mitchell Brinkman) vs. Western Michigan (11-26-19)
A NON-QB COMPLETED A PASS - Trayvon Rudolph (2 pt PAT to Tristen Tewes) at Central Michigan (10-23-21)
BLOCKED A PUNT – Corey Lersch at Ohio (10-12-19)
BLOCKED TWO PUNTS IN A GAME – Jordan Delegal (2) at Ball State (11-20-10)
BLOCKED A PUNT FOR A TOUCHDOWN – Corey Lersch blocked; Adam Buirge scored on a three-yard return at Ohio (10-12-19)
BLOCKED A FIELD GOAL – Devonte O'Malley at Georgia Tech (9-4-21)
BLOCKED A PAT KICK – James Ester vs. Coastal Carolina, Cure Bowl (12-17-21)
CONVERTED A FAKE FG FOR A TOUCHDOWN – Mathew Sims (7-yard rush) vs. Central Michigan (9-29-12)
RAN A SUCCESSFUL FAKE PUNT - Andrew Haidet to Messiah Travis (8-yard pass) at Western Michigan (11-28-20)
MISSED A PAT KICK (not blocked) – Christian Hagan at Wyoming (9-3-16)
CONVERTED A TWO-POINT ATTEMPT – Miles Joiner pass from Rocky Lombardi at Central Michigan (10-23-21)
FAILED TO CONVERT A TWO-POINT ATTEMPT - Twice (incomplete passes) at Kent State (11-3-21)
PASSED FOR 300 OR MORE YARDS – Rocky Lombardi (532) at Kent State (11-3-21) - *NIU SCHOOL RECORD*
PASSED FOR 400 OR MORE YARDS – Rocky Lombardi (532) at Kent State (11-3-21) - *NIU SCHOOL RECORD*
THREW FOUR OR MORE TD PASSES IN A GAME - Marcus Childers (4) vs. Buffalo, MAC Championships (11-30-18)
THREW FIVE OR MORE TD PASSES IN A GAME – Chandler Harnish (6) at Toledo (11-1-11)
COMPLETED A 60-YARD PASS – Rocky Lombardi (75) to Trayvon Rudolph (TD) at Kent State (11-3-21)
COMPLETED A 70-YARD PASS – Ethan Hampton (70) to Cole Tucker (TD) vs. Vanderbilt (9-17-22)
COMPLETED AN 80-YARD PASS – Daniel Santacaterina (81 yards) to Spencer Tears at San Diego State (9-30-17)
RUSHED FOR 100 OR MORE YARDS – Jay Ducker (146) & Antario Brown (105) vs. Coastal Carolina, Cure Bowl (12-17-21)
RUSHED FOR 200 OR MORE YARDS – Jay Ducker (210) vs. Bowling Green (10-16-21)
RUSHED FOR 300 OR MORE YARDS – Jordan Lynch (321) vs. Western Michigan (11-26-13) - *Set NCAA QB RECORD*
HAD A RUSH OF 60 YARDS OR LONGER – Clint Ratkovich (96) vs. Western Michigan (11-23-21)
HAD A RUSH OF 70 YARDS OR LONGER – Clint Ratkovich (96) vs. Western Michigan (11-23-21)
HAD A RUSH OF 80 YARDS OR LONGER – Clint Ratkovich (96) vs. Western Michigan (11-23-21)
CONSECUTIVE GAMES RUSHING FOR 100 YARDS OR MORE – Jay Ducker, 3 games
(vs. Western Michigan, 11-23-21; vs. Kent State, MAC Championship, 12-4-21; vs. Coastal Carolina, Cure Bowl, 12-17-21)
RUSHED FOR FOUR OR MORE TOUCHDOWNS IN A GAME – Joel Bouagnon (5) vs. Bowling Green (11-1-16)
RUSHED FOR TWO OR MORE TDs IN CONSECUTIVE GAMES – Tre Harbison vs. Ball State (2), Ohio (3) - (10-5-19 to 10-12-19)
TWO PLAYERS RUSHED FOR 100 YARDS, SAME GAME – Jay Ducker (146) & Antario Brown (105) vs. Coastal Carolina, Cure Bowl (12-17-21)
TWO PLAYERS HAD 100 RECEIVING YARDS, SAME GAME - Trayvon Rudolph (108) and Cole Tucker (103) vs. Ball State (11-10-21)
QB RUSHED FOR 150 YARDS OR MORE – Marcus Childers (169) vs. Ohio (10-13-18)
HAD 10 OR MORE RECEPTIONS – Cole Tucker (10) at Buffalo (11-17-21)
HAD 100 OR MORE RECEIVING YARDS - Cole Tucker (123) at Tulsa (9-10-22)
HAD 200 OR MORE RECEIVING YARDS – Trayvon Rudolph (309) at Kent State (11-3-21) - *NIU SCHOOL RECORD*
CAUGHT TWO OR MORE TOUCHDOWN PASSES IN A GAME - Cole Tucker (2) vs. Vanderbilt (9-17-22)
CAUGHT THREE OR MORE TOUCHDOWN PASSES IN A GAME – Trayvon Rudolph (3) at Kent State (11-3-21)
HAD 200 RUSHING AND 200 PASSING YARDS IN A GAME – Chandler Harnish (229 rushing/203 passing) vs. Western Michigan (10-15-11)
HAD 100 RUSHING AND 100 RECEIVING YARDS IN A GAME – Garrett Wolfe (171 rushing/114 receiving) at Ohio State (9-2-06)
SCORED THREE OR MORE TOUCHDOWNS IN A GAME – Rocky Lombardi (3 rushing) vs. Kent State, MAC Championship (12-4-21)
INTERCEPTED TWO OR MORE PASSES IN A GAME - Eric Rogers (2) vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1-22)
SCORED A RUSHING AND RECEIVING TD IN A GAME – Jordan Huff (1 rush, 1 receiving) vs. Ball State (11-9-17)
KICKED A FG OF 50 OR MORE YARDS – 51 yards, John Richardson at Ohio (10-12-19)
SCORED 15 OR MORE POINTS KICKING – 16, John Richardson at Toledo (10-9-21)
KICKED FOUR OR MORE FIELD GOALS IN A GAME – 5, John Richardson at Toledo (10-9-21) - *Tied NIU SCHOOL RECORD*

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

NIU TEAM HIGHS & LOWS

	HIGH	LOW
Points, Game	35 at Tulsa (9-10)	28, vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Points, Half	21 (1st), vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1), vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)	7 (1st), at Tulsa (9-10)
Points, Quarter	14, 3x; last vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)	0 (1st), at Tulsa (9-10), 4th vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
First Downs	25, vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)	17, vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Rushing Yards	187, vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)	126, at Tulsa (9-10)
Rushing Attempts	37, at Tulsa (9-10)	31, vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Passing Yards	259, at Tulsa (9-10)	192, vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Pass Attempts	31, at Tulsa (9-10)	22, vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Pass Completions	19, vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)	14, vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Total Offensive Plays	68, at Tulsa (9-10)	56, vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Total Offense Yards	385, at Tulsa (9-10)	354, vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Punts	4, at Tulsa (9-10)	2, vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1), vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Penalties	9, at Tulsa (9-10)	5, vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Turnovers Lost	1, at Tulsa (9-10), vs. Vanderbilt (9-10)	0, vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Sacks (By Defense)	4, at Tulsa (9-10)	0, vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Time of Possession	32:00, at Tulsa (9-10)	29:16, vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)

OPPONENTS TEAM HIGHS & LOWS

	HIGH	LOW
Points, Game	38, at Tulsa (9-10), vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)	27, by Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Points, Half	24 (1st), at Tulsa (9-10)	6, by Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Points, Quarter	21 (3rd), by Vanderbilt (9-17)	0 (3rd), at Tulsa (9-10)
First Downs	25, by Eastern Illinois (9-1)	21, by Vanderbilt (9-17)
Rushing Yards	173, by Vanderbilt (9-17)	107, at Tulsa (9-10)
Rushing Attempts	39, by Vanderbilt (9-17)	30, by Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Passing Yards	322, at Tulsa (9-10)	255, by Vanderbilt (9-17)
Pass Attempts	35, by Eastern Illinois (9-1)	28, by Vanderbilt (9-17)
Pass Completions	25, by Eastern Illinois (9-1)	18, by Vanderbilt (9-17)
Total Offensive Plays	68, at Tulsa (9-10)	65, by Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Total Offense Yards	441, by Eastern Illinois (9-1)	428, by Vanderbilt (9-17)
Punts	2, by Vanderbilt (9-17)	1, by Eastern Illinois (9-1), at Tulsa (9-10)
Penalties	9, at Tulsa (9-10)	5, by Vanderbilt (9-17)
Turnovers Lost	2, by Eastern Illinois (9-1), at Tulsa (9-10)	1, by Vanderbilt (9-17)
Sacks (By Defense)	4, at Tulsa (9-10)	0, by Eastern Illinois (9-1), at Tulsa (9-10)
Time of Possession	30:34, by Eastern Illinois (9-1)	28:00, at Tulsa (9-10)

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

NIU

Rushing Attempts:	20, Antario Brown at Tulsa (9-11)
Net Rushing Yards:	83, Harrison Waylee vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Rushing TDs:	1, Antario Brown 3x; last vs. Vanderbilt (9-17) 1, Harrison Waylee vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1) 1, Mason Blakemore vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1) 1, Rocky Lombardi at Tulsa (9-10)
Long TD Run:	51 yards, Antario Brown vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Non-Scoring Run:	54 yards, Harrison Waylee vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Passes Attempted:	31, Rocky Lombardi at Tulsa (9-10)
Passes Completed:	18, Rocky Lombardi at Tulsa (9-10)
Passing Yards:	259, Rocky Lombardi at Tulsa (9-10)
Passes Had Intercepted:	1, Rocky Lombardi at Tulsa (9-10) 1, Ethan Hampton vs. Vanderbilt (9-10)
Completion Percentage:	1.000 (7-7), Rocky Lombardi vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
TD Passes:	3, Rocky Lombardi at Tulsa (9-10)
Long TD Pass:	70, Hampton to Cole Tucker vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Non-Scoring Pass:	38, Lombardi to Shemar Thornton vs. Eastern Ill. (9-1)
Receptions:	7, Cole Tucker at Tulsa (9-10)
Receiving Yards:	123, Cole Tucker at Tulsa (9-10)
Receiving TDs:	2, Kacper Rutkiewicz at Tulsa (9-10) 2, Cole Tucker vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Punt Returns (not blocks):	1, Cole Tucker vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1) 1, Kacper Rutkiewicz at Tulsa (9-10)
Punt Return Yards:	4, Cole Tucker vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Punt Return, Long:	4, Cole Tucker vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Kickoff Returns:	4, Mason Blakemore vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Kickoff Return Yards:	66, Mason Blakemore vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Kickoff Return, Long:	26, Mason Blakemore vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Total Plays:	33, Rocky Lombardi at Tulsa (9-10)
Total Offensive Yards:	265, Rocky Lombardi at Tulsa (9-10)
All-Purpose Attempts:	20, Antario Brown at Tulsa (9-10)
All-Purpose Yards:	123, Cole Tucker at Tulsa (9-10)
Points & Touchdowns:	12 & 2, Kacper Rutkiewicz at Tulsa (9-10) 12 & 2, Cole Tucker vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Points Kicking:	9, John Richardson vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Field Goals Attempted:	3, John Richardson vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Field Goals Made:	2, John Richardson vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Longest Field Goal Attempt:	48, John Richardson at Tulsa (9-10)
Longest Field Goal Made:	43, John Richardson vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Punts:	4, Tom Foley at Tulsa (9-10)
Best Punting Average:	47.0, Tom Foley vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Longest Punt:	53, Tom Foley vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Tackles:	14, Daveren Rayner vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Tackles for Loss:	2.0, Izayah Green-May at Tulsa (9-10)
Sacks:	1.0, 4 times by 4 different players
Interceptions:	2, Eric Rogers vs. Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Long Interception Return:	4 yards, Muhammad Jammeh at Tulsa (9-10)
Fumbles Forced:	1, Jordan Gandy vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Fumbles Recovered:	1, Jordan Gandy at Tulsa (9-10) 1, CJ Brown vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)
Long Fumble Return:	12 yards, CJ Brown vs. Vanderbilt (9-17)

OPPONENTS

Rushing Attempts:	23, Ray Davis, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Net Rushing Yards:	116, Ray Davis, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Rushing TDs:	1, Steven Anderson, Tulsa (9-10) 1, Ray Davis, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Long TD Run:	3 yards, Ray Davis, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Non-Scoring Run:	42 yards, Markenzy Pierre, Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Passes Attempted:	34, Jonah O'Brien, Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Passes Completed:	25, Jonah O'Brien, Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Passes Had Intercepted:	2, Jonah O'Brien, Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Completion Percentage:	.736 (25-34), Jonah O'Brien, Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Passing Yards:	322, Davis Brin, Tulsa (9-10)
TD Passes:	4, Davis Brin, Tulsa (9-10) 4, AJ Swann, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Long TD Pass:	31 yards, Swann to Will Sheppard, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Non-Scoring Pass:	42 yards, O'Brien to Justin Thomas, Eastern Ill. (9-1)
Receptions:	11, Keylon Stokes, Tulsa (9-10)
Receiving Yards:	135, Keylon Stokes, Tulsa (9-10)
Receiving TDs:	2, JuanCarlos Santana, Tulsa (9-10) 2, Will Sheppard, Vanderbilt (9-10)
Punt Returns:	4, Keylon Stokes, Tulsa (9-10)
Punt Return Yards:	47, Keylon Stokes, Tulsa (9-10)
Punt Return, Long:	25, Keylon Stokes, Tulsa (9-10)
Kickoff Returns:	4, Jaelin Benefield, Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Kickoff Return Yards:	61, Jaelin Benefield, Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Kickoff Return, Long:	21, Jayden McGowan, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Total Plays:	40, Jonah O'Brien, Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Total Offensive Yards:	329, Davis Brin, Tulsa (9-10)
All-Purpose Attempts:	26, Ray Davis, Vanderbilt (9-17)
All-Purpose Yards:	193, Will Sheppard, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Points & Touchdowns:	12 & 2, JuanCarlos Santana, Tulsa (9-10) 12 & 2, Will Sheppard, Vanderbilt (9-17) 9, Stone Galloway, Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Points Kicking:	
Field Goals Attempted:	2, Stone Galloway, Eastern Illinois (9-1) 2, Zach Long, Tulsa (9-10)
Field Goals Made:	2, Stone Galloway, Eastern Illinois (9-1)
Longest Field Goal Attempt:	40, Zach Long, Tulsa (9-10)
Longest Field Goal Made:	35, Joseph Bulovas, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Punts:	2, Matt Hayball, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Best Punting Average:	57.0, Lachlan Wilson, Tulsa (9-10)
Longest Punt:	57, Lachlan Wilson, Tulsa (9-10)
Tackles:	13, Bryson Powers, Tulsa (9-10)
Tackles for Loss:	2.5, BJ Diakite, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Sacks:	1.0, BJ Diakite, Vanderbilt (9-17)
Interceptions:	1, Tyon Davis, Tulsa (9-10) 1, De'Rickey Wright, Vanderbilt (9-17)
INT Return, Long:	35 yards, De'Rickey Wright, Vanderbilt (9-17)
INT Return, TD:	---
Long Fumble Return:	---

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

SEASON & CAREER HIGHS

RUSHING

Name	Carries	Yards	TDs	Long
2022 Harrison Waylee Career	17 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 27 at Georgia Tech, 9-4-21	83 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 179 vs. Wyoming, 9-11-21	1 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 2 vs. Wyoming, 9-11-21	54 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 75 vs. Wyoming, 9-11-21
2022 Antario Brown Career	20 at Tulsa, 9-10 24 at Toledo, 10-9-21	73 at Tulsa, 9-10 105 vs. Coastal Carolina, 12-17-21	1 last vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 2 vs. WMU, 11-23-21	51 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 51 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17-22
2022 Rocky Lombardi Career*	2 at Tulsa, 9-10 12 at Toledo, 10-9-21	8 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 119 vs. Maine, 9-25-21	1 at Tulsa, 9-10 3 last at MAC Champ., 12-4-21	8 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 64 vs. Maine, 9-25-21
2022 Mason Blakemore Career	10 at Tulsa, 9-10 5 vs. Ball State, 11-10-21	35 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 44 vs. BGSU, 10-16-21	1 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 1 vs. BGSU, 10-16-21	19 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 19 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1-22

RECEIVING

Name	Catches	Yards	TDs	Long
2022 Cole Tucker Career	7 at Tulsa, 9-10 10 at Buffalo, 11-17-21	123 at Tulsa, 9-10 123 at Tulsa, 9-10-22	2 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 2 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17-22	70 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 70 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17-22
2022 Shemar Thornton Career*	6 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 7 at Louisiana Tech, 9-20-19	81 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 125 vs. Old Dominion, 11-2-19	--- 1, last at Miami (Fla.), 11-23-19	38 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 54 vs. Old Dominion, 11-2-19
2022 Kacper Rutkiewicz Career*	3 last vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 4 vs. Northern Arizona, 9-21-19	45 at Tulsa, 9-10 105 vs. Northern Arizona, 9-21-19	2 at Tulsa, 9-10 2 at Tulsa, 9-10-22	30 at Tulsa, 9-10 64 vs. North Dakota St., 10-5-19
2022 Tristen Tewes Career	1 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17-22 2 at Kent St, 11-3-21	2 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17-22 21 vs. Maine, 9-25-21	--- ---	2 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 21 vs. Maine, 9-25-21
2022 Messiah Travis Career	1 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17-22 3 last at Kent St, 11-3-21	13 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17-22 54 at Kent St, 11-3-21	--- 1 at EMU, 12-12-20	13 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 36 at Kent St, 11-3-21
2022 Mohamed Toure Career	--- 1 last vs. BGSU, 10-16-21	--- 44 vs. Toledo, 12-12-20	--- ---	--- 44 vs. Toledo, 12-5-20
2022 Miles Joiner Career*	1 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 5 last vs. Coastal Carolina, 12-17-21	11 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 88 at Duquesne, 9-14-19	--- 1 last vs. Coastal Carolina, 12-17-21	11 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 58 at Duquesne, 9-14-19
2022 Liam Soraghan Career	2 at Tulsa, 9-10 2 last at Tulsa, 9-10-22	26 at Tulsa, 9-10 26 at Tulsa, 9-10-22	1 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 1 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1-22	17 at Tulsa, 9-10 17 at Tulsa, 9-10-22
2022 Fabian McCray Career	3 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 3 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17-22	46 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 46 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17-22	--- ---	33 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 33 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17-22
2022 Trayvon Rudolph Career	--- 14 at Kent St, 11-3-21	--- #309 at Kent St, 11-3-21	--- 3 at Kent St, 11-3-21	--- 75 last at Kent St, 11-3-21
2022 George Gumbs Career	1 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 1 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1-22	13 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 13 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1-22	--- ---	13 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 13 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1-22
2022 Harrison Waylee Career	1 last vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 3 last vs. Toledo, 12-5-20	7 last at Tulsa, 9-10 27 at Western Michigan, 11-28-20	--- 1 at Western Michigan, 11-28-20	7 last at Tulsa, 9-10 16 at W. Michigan, 11-28-20
2022 Mason Blakemore Career	2 at Tulsa, 9-10 2 at Tulsa, 9-10-22	15 at Tulsa, 9-10 15 at Tulsa, 9-10-22	--- ---	21 at Tulsa, 9-10 21 at Tulsa, 9-10-22

PASSING

Name	Completions	Attempts	Interceptions	Touchdowns	Yards	Long
2022 Rocky Lombardi Career*	18 at Tulsa, 9-10 33 at Kent St, 11-3-21	31 at Tulsa, 9-10 57 at Kent St, 11-3-21	1 at Tulsa, 9-10 3 vs. Wyoming, 9-11-21	3 at Tulsa, 9-10 3 last at Kent St, 11-3-21	259 at Tulsa, 9-10 532 at Kent St, 11-3-21	38 vs. Eastern Illinois, 9-1 75 last at Kent St, 11-3-21
2022 Ethan Hampton Career	12 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 33 at Kent St, 11-3-21	19 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 57 at Kent St, 11-3-21	1 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 3 vs. Wyoming, 9-11-21	2 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 3 last at Kent St, 11-3-21	124 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 532 at Kent St, 11-3-21	70 vs. Vanderbilt, 9-17 75 last at Kent St, 11-3-21

*Including at previous school

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

NIU 2022 ROSTERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Elig.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
0	Fabian McCray	WR	6-2	192	So.-R	Chicago, Ill. (Phillips)
0	Akanimo Asuquo	LB	6-0	215	Fr.-R	Forney, Texas (North Forney)
1	Antario Brown	RB	5-10	218	So.	Savannah, Ga. (Beach)
1	James Ester	DT	6-3	295	So.-R	Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)
2	Ethan Hampton	QB	6-3	204	Fr.-R	Elburn, Ill. (Aurora Christian)
2	JaVaughn Byrd	CB	6-0	186	So.	Milwaukee, Wis. (Rufus King)
3	Devin Lafayette	S	6-2	197	Fr.-R	Brunswick, Ga. (Brunswick)
3	Mason Blakemore	RB	6-1	207	So.	Centralia, Ill. (Centralia [Ill.])
4	Dustin Fletcher	QB	6-3	218	So.-C	Flint, Mich. (Carmen-Ainsworth)
4	Ray Thomas	DE	6-4	256	So.-C	Racine, Wis. (Washington Park)
5	Justin Lynch	QB	6-1	205	So.	Chicago, Ill. (Mount Carmel/Temple)
5	Michael Kennedy	DE	6-1	225	Sr.-R	Chicago, Ill. (Mt. Carmel)
6	C.J. Brown	S	5-11	194	So.-C	Canton, Mich. (Walled Lake Western)
6	Jeffery Lomax	QB	6-3	209	Fr.-R	Elgin, Ill. (Elgin)
7	Jordan Hansen	S	6-1	200	So.-C	Arlington Heights, Ill. (John Hersey)
7	Terron Kellman	RB	5-8	185	Fr.	Clinton, Md. (St. Frances Academy)
8	Jeffrey Griffin Jr.	DT	6-0	301	Jr.-R	Homewood, Ill. (Homewood-Flossmoor)
8	Kacper Rutkiewicz	WR	5-8	172	Jr.	Mount Prospect, Ill. (John Hersey/Illinois St.)
9	Daveren Rayner	LB	6-3	208	So.-C	Indianapolis, Ind. (Lawrence Central)
9	Mohamed Toure	WR	6-2	200	So.-R	Irvington, N.J. (Irvington)
10	Billy Dozier	RB	5-10	191	So.	New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln Way West)
10	Demond Taylor Jr.	DT	6-2	299	So.-R	East St. Louis, Ill. (East St. Louis)
11	Kyle Pugh	LB	6-0	226	Sr.-6	Chicago Heights, Ill. (Bloom Township)
11	Messiah Travis	WR	5-10	183	So.-R	Chicago, Ill. (Solorio Academy)
12	Eric Rogers	CB	6-2	184	So.-C	Burlington, N.J. (Burlington Township)
12	Rocky Lombardi	QB	6-3	227	Sr.-R	Clive, Iowa (Valley/Michigan State)
13	Nevan Cremascoli	QB	6-2	215	Fr.	Winnetka, Ill. (New Trier)
13	Ty Myles	CB	5-10	185	Fr.-R	Blackshear, Ga. (Pierce County)
14	Jordan Gandy	CB	5-10	182	Jr.	DeKalb, Ill. (DeKalb/South Dakota State)
14	Mason Pierre-Antoine	WR	6-0	182	Fr.-R	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln Way East)
15	Cole Tucker	WR	6-2	195	Sr.-R	DeKalb, Ill. (DeKalb)
15	Izayah Green-May	DE	6-6	242	Sr.-R	Bolingbrook, Ill. (Bolingbrook/Wisconsin)
16	Brian Whitsey	LB	6-0	218	Fr.-R	Chicago, Ill. (Solorio Academy)
16	Jalen Johnson	WR	6-3	198	Fr.	Aurora, Ill. (Metea Valley)
17	Eli Reed	WR	5-11	182	Fr.	Downers Grove, Ill. (Downers Grove South)
17	Louis Frye	S	6-0	203	So.	Teaneck, N.J. (Paramus Catholic)
18	Elijah Hamm	LB	6-1	208	Fr.-R	Watkinsville, Ga. (Oconee County)
18	Jeremiah Howard	WR	5-11	192	So.-C	Merrillville, Ind. (Merrillville)
19	Shemar Thornton	WR	5-11	191	Sr.	Miami, Fla. (Hallandale/FIU)
19	Nate Valcarcel	S	6-1	182	So.-C	Greenfield, Wis. (Whitnall/South Dakota)
20	Jacob Finley	CB	5-11	178	Fr.	Hoover, Ala. (Hoover)
21	Jaiden Credle	RB	5-11	195	Fr.	Columbus, Ga. (Carver)
21	Muhammad Jammeh	S	6-1	198	Fr.-R	Detroit, Mich. (Renaissance)
22	Cyrus McGarrell	CB	6-2	183	Fr.-R	Windsor, Ontario, Canada (Clearwater Acad. Int'l. [Fla.]
23	Dane Pardridge	WR	5-11	175	Fr.	DeKalb, Ill. (Marmion Academy)
23	Jordan White	S	6-2	208	So.	Havre de Grace, Md. (Havre de Grace/ Youngstown St.)
24	Jashon Prophete	CB	5-11	186	So.-C	Pompano Beach, Fla. (Blanche Ely)
24	Nathan Castor	RB	6-0	185	Fr.	Fort Myers, Fla. (South Fort Myers)
25	Christian Nash	RB	5-11	228	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard South)
25	Jake Gassaway	LB	6-0	205	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard South)
26	Jaden Dolphin	LB	6-2	216	So.-C	Des Plaines, Ill. (Maine West)
26	Chris Stinson	TE	6-4	210	Fr.	Aurora, Ill. (West Aurora)
27	Keyshaun Pipkin	WR	6-2	202	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind. (North Central)
27	Trey Porter	S	6-0	197	Fr.	Ankeny, Iowa (Ankeny)
28	Sam Robertson	CB	6-1	183	So.	Plymouth, Minn. (Wayzata/North Dakota)
29	Amariyun Knighten	CB	6-0	170	Fr.	Hollywood, Fla. (Stranahan)
30	Harrison Waylee	RB	5-10	192	So.-C	Johnston, Iowa (Urbandale)
30	Zeke Williams	CB	5-10	179	Fr.	Naperville, Ill. (Naperville North)
32	Quinn Urwiler	LB	6-0	228	So.-R	Mooseheart, Ill. (Batavia/North Dakota)
32	Joshua Brown	RB	5-8	195	Fr.	Villa Park, Ill. (Willowbrook)

ALPHABETICAL

No.	Name	Pos.
57	Jaylin Adams	DT
48	Nick Alvarado	LB
88	Malik Armstrong	WR
0	Akanimo Asuquo	LB
3	Mason Blakemore	RB
43	Brett Bostad	FB
1	Antario Brown	RB
6	C.J. Brown	S
32	Joshua Brown	RB
60	Evan Buss	OL
2	JaVaughn Byrd	CB
47	Drew Cassens	TE
24	Nathan Castor	RB
76	John Champe	OL
33	Andre Cobb	CB
70	Marques Cox	OL
21	Jaiden Credle	RB
13	Nevan Cremascoli	QB
93	Cameron Crowell	DE
55	Abiathar Curry	OL
52	Ivan Davis	DE
26	Jaden Dolphin	LB
10	Billy Dozier	RB/WR
75	Leif Engstrand	OL
1	James Ester	DT
20	Jacob Finley	CB
4	Dustin Fletcher	QB
66	Mike Florentine	LS
98	Tom Foley	P
17	Louis Frye	S
14	Jordan Gandy	CB
25	Jake Gassaway	LB
58	Skylar Gill-Howard	DT
15	Izayah Green-May	DE
8	Jeffrey Griffin Jr.	DT
84	George Gumbs	WR
51	Cade Haberman	DT
18	Elijah Hamm	LB
2	Ethan Hampton	QB
7	Jordan Hansen	S
91	Isaac Hatfield	LS
34	Anthony Hernandez	LB
71	Drew Hoth	OL
18	Jeremiah Howard	WR
72	Bubba Hubbard	OL
35	Logan Jacobson	P
21	Muhammad Jammeh	S
90	Reggie Jean	DT
16	Jalen Johnson	WR
80	Miles Joiner	TE
7	Terron Kellman	RB
5	Michael Kennedy	DE
44	Ryan King	LB
29	Amariyun Knighten	CB
3	Devin Lafayette	S
49	Brock Lampe	FB
79	J.J. Lippe	OL
6	Jeffery Lomax	QB
12	Rocky Lombardi	QB
5	Justin Lynch	QB
73	Brandon MacKinnon	OL
54	Evan Malcore	OL
0	Fabian McCray	WR

NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

NIU 2022 ROSTERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Elig.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)	No.	Name.....	Pos.
33	Andre Cobb	CB	6-1	174	Fr.	Naperville, Ill. (Neuqua Valley)	22	Cyrus McGarrell.....	CB
34	Anthony Hernandez	LB	6-2	209	Fr.-R	Schaumburg, Ill. (Schaumburg)	89	Kaymar Mimes.....	TE
35	Logan Jacobson	P	6-0	220	Fr.	Hillsboro, Mo. (St. Pius X)	41	Rashon Myles Jr.....	LB
36	Dayven Shinhoster	LB	6-0	217	So.	Barrington, Ill. (Barrington)	13	Ty Myles.....	CB
37	Joey Rattin	LB	6-0	201	So.	Palatine, Ill. (Fremd/Upper Iowa)	25	Christian Nash.....	RB
38	Nick Rattin	LB	6-2	222	Jr.	Palatine, Ill. (Fremd)	45	Makhi Nelson-Douglas..	LB
39	John Richardson	K	5-11	173	Jr.-R	Orland Park, Ill. (Brother Rice)	50	Pete Nygra.....	OL
40	Izuchukwu "Izzy" Ozoh	TE	6-4	237	Fr.-R	Hazel Crest, Ill. (Homewood-Flossmoor)	95	Devonte O'Malley.....	DT
41	Rashon Myles Jr.	LB	6-1	195	Fr.	Brownsburg, Ind. (Brownsburg)	99	Pierce Oppong.....	DE
42	Dawson Ripperda	DE	6-3	215	Fr.	Larchwood, Iowa (West Lyon)	40	Izuchukwu "Izzy" Ozoh...	TE
43	Brett Bostad	FB	6-0	243	Jr.-R	Kennedale, Texas (Kennedale)	23	Dane Pardridge.....	WR
44	Ryan King	LB	6-0	218	Fr.-R	Wildwood, Mo. (Chaminade College Prep)	14	Mason Pierre-Antoine...	WR
45	Makhi Nelson-Douglas	LB	6-1	223	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn South)	77	Luke Pinnick.....	OL
46	Nathan Ruble	LB	6-1	215	Fr.	Festus, Mo. (St. Pius X)	27	Keyshaun Pipkin.....	WR
47	Drew Cassens	TE	6-2	243	So.-C	Downers Grove, Ill. (Downers Grove North)	74	Tyler Pitcel.....	OL
48	Nick Alvarado	LB	6-0	205	Fr.	Bloomfield, N.J. (Union City)	27	Trey Porter.....	S
49	Brock Lampe	FB	6-1	238	Fr.-R	Kenosha, Wis. (Bradford)	69	Nolan Potter.....	OL
50	Pete Nygra	OL	6-4	287	Fr.-R	North Indianapolis, Ind. (Brownsburg)	24	Jashon Prophete.....	CB
51	Cade Haberman	DT	6-2	298	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	11	Kyle Pugh.....	LB
52	Ivan Davis	DE	6-3	241	So.-C	Canton, Mich. (Plymouth)	37	Joey Rattin.....	LB
53	Tony Webb Jr.	OL	6-5	295	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Tinley Park)	38	Nick Rattin.....	LB
54	Evan Malcore	OL	6-6	285	Fr.	Sun Prairie, Wis. (Sun Prairie)	9	Daveren Rayner.....	LB
55	Abiathar Curry	OL	6-3	295	Fr.	Janesville, Wis. (Parker)	17	Eli Reed.....	WR
55	Jaden Wilson	DE	6-2	262	Fr.-R	Detroit, Mich. (Renaissance)	56	Liam Rempel.....	DE
56	Liam Rempel	DE	6-4	238	Fr.-R	Monmouth Beach, N.J. (The Hun School)	39	John Richardson.....	K
57	Jaylin Adams	DT	6-1	315	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Morgan Park)	42	Dawson Ripperda.....	DE
58	Skylar Gill-Howard	DT	6-1	240	Fr.-R	Milwaukee, Wis. (Greenfield/Upper Iowa)	28	Sam Robertson.....	CB
60	Evan Buss	OL	6-6	313	So.-C	Kimberly, Wis. (Kimberly)	12	Eric Rogers.....	CB
62	Seth Thompson	OL	6-4	296	Fr.-R	Eden Prairie, Minn. (Holy Family Catholic)	46	Nathan Ruble.....	LB
64	Matthew Schooley	OL	6-2	302	Fr.-R	Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. (Lincoln)	85	Trayvon Rudolph.....	WR
65	Logan Zschernitz	OL	6-3	319	So.-R	Spencer, Wis. (Spencer)	8	Kacper Rutkiewicz.....	WR
66	Mike Florentine	LS	6-1	219	So.	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln Way East/N. Dakota St.)	64	Matthew Schooley.....	OL
69	Nolan Potter	OL	6-6	309	Jr.-R	Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Washington)	36	Dayven Shinhoster.....	LB
70	Marques Cox	OL	6-6	309	Jr.-R	Peoria, Ill. (Peoria)	83	Liam Soraghan.....	TE
71	Drew Hoth	OL	6-4	313	Fr.-R	Cedar Falls, Iowa (Cedar Falls)	26	Chris Stinson.....	TE
72	Bubba Hubbard	OL	6-3	275	Fr.	Bartlett, Ill. (Bartlett)	10	Demond Taylor Jr.....	DT
73	Brandon MacKinnon	OL	6-5	280	Fr.-R	Lakeville, Mass. (The Hun School [N.J.]	82	Tristen Tewes.....	TE
74	Tyler Pitcel	OL	6-4	310	Fr.-R	Mukwonago, Wis. (Mukwonago)	4	Ray Thomas.....	DE
75	Leif Engstrand	OL	6-8	335	So.-R	Oconomowoc, Wis. (Oconomowoc)	62	Seth Thompson.....	OL
76	John Champe	OL	6-4	322	So.-C	Brookfield, Wis. (Brookfield East)	19	Shemar Thornton.....	WR
77	Luke Pinnick	OL	6-4	302	Fr.-R	State Center, Iowa (West Marshall)	9	Mohamed Toure.....	WR
79	J.J. Lippe	OL	6-5	311	So.-R	Milwaukee, Wis. (Whitefish Bay)	11	Messiah Travis.....	WR
80	Miles Joiner	TE	6-4	251	Sr.-R	Dayton, Ohio (Butler/Youngstown State)	15	Cole Tucker.....	WR
82	Tristen Tewes	TE	6-3	251	So.-R	Pleasant Plains, Ill. (Pleasant Plains)	32	Quinn Urwiler.....	LB
83	Liam Soraghan	TE	6-7	262	Sr.-R	Dearborn, Mich. (Divine Child)	86	Trey Urwiler.....	WR
84	George Gumbs	WR	6-4	230	So.	Chicago, Ill. (Simeon)	19	Nate Valcarcel.....	S
85	Trayvon Rudolph	WR	5-10	181	So.-C	Crete, Ill. (Crete-Monee)	96	Jacob Waskow.....	DT
86	Trey Urwiler	WR	5-9	183	Fr.-R	Mooseheart, Ill. (Batavia)	30	Harrison Waylee.....	RB
88	Malik Armstrong	WR	6-0	170	Fr.	Joliet, Ill. (Minooka Community)	53	Tony Webb Jr.....	OL
89	Kaymar Mimes	TE	6-5	255	Jr.-R	Long Branch, N.J. (Long Branch/Pitt)	23	Jordan White.....	S
90	Reggie Jean	DT	6-1	280	Fr.	Ocoee, Fla. (Foundation Academy)	16	Brian Whitsey.....	LB
91	Isaac Hatfield	LS	6-2	228	Fr.-R	Georgetown, Ind. (Floyd Central)	94	Jalannie Williams.....	DT
92	Kanon Woodill	K	5-11	168	Fr.-R	Plainfield, Ill. (Plainfield North)	97	Roy Williams.....	DE
93	Cameron Crowell	DE	6-3	245	Fr.	Columbus, Ga. (Carver)	30	Zeke Williams.....	CB
94	Jalannie Williams	DT	6-4	304	Fr.-R	Milwaukee, Wis. (Greenfield)	55	Jaden Wilson.....	DE
95	Devonte O'Malley	DT	6-2	276	So.-C	Midlothian, Ill. (Bremen)	92	Kanon Woodill.....	K
96	Jacob Waskow	DT	6-2	282	So.-C	Canton, Ill. (Canton)			
97	Roy Williams	DE	6-6	246	Fr.	Crestwood, Ill. (Shepard)			
98	Tom Foley	P	6-4	219	So.-R	Peoria, Ill. (Peoria Notre Dame/Minnesota)			
99	Pierce Oppong	DE	6-3	257	So.-C	Bloomington, Minn. (Jefferson)			

KEY: So.-C - was a true freshman in 2020.



NIU HUSKIES 2022 FOOTBALL

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

No.	Name (Hgt., Wgt., Yr., Hometown, High School/Previous School)
QB	12 Rocky Lombardi (6-3, 227, Sr.-R, Clive, Iowa, Valley HS/Michigan State)
	2 Ethan Hampton (6-3, 204, Fr.-R, Elburn, Ill., Aurora Christian HS)
RB	1 Antario Brown (5-10, 218, So., Savannah, Ga., Beach HS)
	30 Harrison Waylee (5-10, 192, So.-C, Johnston, Iowa, Urbandale HS)
OR	3 Mason Blakemore (6-1, 207, So., Centralia, Ill., Centralia HS)
FB	49 Brock Lampe (6-1, 238, Fr.-R, Kenosha, Wis., Bradford HS)
TE	83 Liam Soraghan (6-7, 262, Sr.-R, Dearborn, Mich., Divine Child HS)
	40 Izzy Ozoh (6-4, 237, Fr.-R, Hazel Crest, Ill., Homewood-Flossmoor HS)
TE	82 Tristen Tewes (6-3, 251, So.-R, Pleasant Plains, Ill., Pleasant Plains HS)
	89 Kaymar Mimes (6-5, 255, Jr.-R, Long Branch, N.J., Long Branch/Pitt)
WR	19 Cole Tucker (6-2, 195, Sr.-R, DeKalb, Ill., DeKalb HS)
	84 George Gumbs (6-4, 230, So., Chicago, Ill., Simeon HS)
WR	19 Shemar Thornton (5-11, 191, Sr., Miami, Fla., Hallandale HS/FIU)
	11 Messiah Travis (5-10, 183, So.-R, Chicago, Ill., Solorio Academy)
WR	0 Fabian McCray (6-2, 192, So.-R, Chicago, Ill., Phillips HS)
	8 Kacper Rutkiewicz (5-8, 172, Jr., Mount Prospect, Ill., John Hersey HS, Illinois State)
LT	70 Marques Cox (6-6, 309, Jr.-R, Peoria, Ill., Peoria HS)
	60 Evan Buss (6-6, 313, So.-C, Kimberly, Wis., Kimberly HS)
LG	76 John Champe (6-4, 322, So.-C, Brookfield, Wis., Brookfield East HS)
	77 Luke Pinnick (6-4, 302, Fr.-R, State Center, Iowa, West Marshall HS)
C	50 Pete Nygra (6-4, 287, Fr.-R., North Indianapolis, Ind., Brownsburg HS)
	64 Matthew Schooley (6-2, 302, So.-C, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Lincoln HS)
RG	65 Logan Zschernitz (6-3, 319, So.-R, Spencer, Wis., Spencer HS)
	74 Tyler Pitcel (6-4, 310, So.-C, Mukwonago, Wis., Mukwonago HS)
RT	69 Nolan Potter (6-6, 309, Jr.-R, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Washington HS)
	75 Leif Engstrand (6-8, 335, So.-R, Oconomowoc, Wis., Oconomowoc HS)

DEFENSE

No.	Name (Hgt., Wgt., Yr., Hometown, High School/Previous School)
DE	4 Ray Thomas (6-4, 256, So.-C, Racine, Wis., Washington Park HS)
	99 Pierce Oppong (6-3, 257, So.-C, Bloomington, Minn., Jefferson HS)
	97 Roy Williams (6-6, 246, Fr., Crestwood, Ill., Shepard HS)
DT	95 Devonte O'Malley (6-2, 276, So.-C, Midlothian, Ill., Bremen HS)
	10 Demond Taylor Jr. (6-2, 299, So.-R, East St. Louis, Ill., East St. Louis HS)
DT	1 James Ester (6-3, 295, So.-R, Detroit, Mich., Cass Tech)
	51 Cade Haberman (6-2, 298, So., Omaha, Neb., Westside HS)
	8 Jeffrey Griffin Jr. (6-0, 301, Jr.-R, Homewood, Ill., Homewood-Flossmoor HS)
DE	15 Izayah Green-May (6-6, 242, Sr.-R, Bolingbrook, Ill., Bolingbrook HS/Wisconsin)
	52 Ivan Davis (6-3, 241, So.-C, Canton, Mich., Plymouth HS)
OR	5 Michael Kennedy (6-1, 225, Sr.-R, Chicago, Ill., Mt. Carmel HS)
LB	9 Daveren Rayner (6-3, 208, So.-C, Indianapolis, Ind., Lawrence Central HS)
	44 Ryan King (6-0, 218, Fr.-R, Wildwood, Mo., Chaminade College Prep)
LB	11 Kyle Pugh (6-0, 226, Sr.-S, Chicago Heights, Ill., Bloom Township HS)
OR	38 Nick Rattin (6-2, 222, Jr., Palatine, Ill., Fremd HS)
HSK	17 Louis Frye (6-0, 203, So., Teaneck, N.J., Paramus Catholic HS)
OR	26 Jaden Dolphin (6-2, 216, So.-C, Des Plaines, Ill., Maine West HS)
	3 Devin Lafayette (6-2, 197, Fr.-R, Brunswick, Ga., Brunswick HS)
CB	14 Jordan Gandy (5-10, 182, Jr., DeKalb, Ill., DeKalb HS/South Dakota State)
	22 Cyrus McGarrell (6-2, 183, Fr.-R, Windsor, Ontario, Can., Clearwater Academy International [Fla.])
S	6 C.J. Brown (5-11, 194, So.-C, Canton, Mich., Walled Lake Western HS)
	23 Jordan White (6-2, 208, So., Havre de Grace, Md., Havre de Grace HS/Youngstown St.)
S	21 Muhammad Jammeh (6-1, 198, Fr.-R., Detroit, Mich., Renaissance HS)
	7 Jordan Hansen (6-1, 200, So.-C, Arlington Heights, Ill., John Hersey HS)
CB	12 Eric Rogers (6-2, 184, So.-C, Burlington, N.J., Burlington Township HS)
OR	2 JaVaughn Byrd (6-0, 186, So., Milwaukee, Wis., Rufus King HS)

SPECIALISTS

No.	Name (Hgt., Wgt., Yr., Hometown, High School/Previous School)
P	98 Tom Foley (6-4, 219, So.-R, Peoria, Ill., Peoria Notre Dame HS/Minnesota)
K	39 John Richardson (5-11, 173, Jr.-R, Orland Park, Ill., Brother Rice HS)
LS	91 Isaac Hatfield (6-2, 228, Fr.-R, Georgetown, Ind., Floyd Central HS)
HO	98 Tom Foley (6-4, 219, So.-R, Peoria, Ill., Peoria Notre Dame HS/Minnesota)
KOR	3 Mason Blakemore (6-1, 207, So., Centralia, Ill., Centralia HS)
	21 Jaiden Credle (5-11, 195, Fr., Columbus, Ga., Carver HS)
OR	10 Billy Dozier (5-10, 191, So., New Lenox, Ill., Lincoln Way West HS)
PR	15 Cole Tucker (6-2, 195, Sr.-R, DeKalb, Ill., DeKalb HS)
	8 Kacper Rutkiewicz (5-8, 172,

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Coaches

Daryl AGPALSA..... Ag-PAWL-suh
Nick BENEDETTOBENN-eh-DETT-oh
Eric EIDNESS.....IDES-ness
Jordan GIGLI.....GEE-lee
Jason ONYEBUAGUOn-yay-BOO-ah-GOO

Hometowns

Oconomowoc.....Uh-CON-oh-muh-WALK
Mukwonago.....Muh-GWAHN-UH-go

as of 9-20-22