



## ARIZONA STATE BIO

National Championships - 0



PAC-12 Championships: 3  
(Last: 2007)

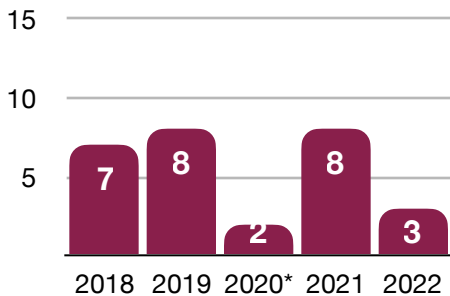
Location: **Tempe, AZ**

All-Time Record: **584-377-18**

2022 Results: **3-9**

Head Coach: **Kelly Dillingham**  
1st Year (0-0)

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Sun Devil Stadium (53,599)

## Young Talent Gets an Opportunity in Tempe

Kenny Dillingham brings a history of success with him to Tempe. He was a breakout star as the offensive coordinator for Oregon and led the Duck offense to finish 6th in the entire country in total offense. The offensive explosion included the revitalization of quarterback Bo Nix's career to the point where he is thought of as a strong Heisman candidate this season. Meanwhile, at Arizona State, chaos and confusion reigned. After a terrible loss at home to Eastern Michigan in week three, Arizona State's administration decided it was time to fire head coach Herm Edwards. It was a fair assessment as the team was losing battles on and off the field. However, the administration's decision to fire Edwards as he was still walking off the field received justified backlash. At that point, the season was a lost cause outside of a massive upset win over Washington midseason. Dillingham isn't coming into the most stable or well run school in the conference. Assuming he can clear those hurdles, he will be tasked with rebuilding a roster torn apart by the transfer portal and to provide drastic improvement in keeping in-state recruits home.


Early expectations are for Dillingham to fix the offense quickly, given his background. He got a huge boost when highly recruited quarterback **Jaden Rashada** had a falling out during the recruitment process at Florida and the Sun Devils were positioned to take him. Originally it appeared that Notre Dame transfer **Drew Pyne** would be the starter, but Rashada has looked incredible during camp and won the job for the opener. With Dillingham's track record, Rashada should be in good hands, however, in the short term he will still make plenty of true freshman mistakes. Incoming transfers on the offensive line in **Aaron Frost** and **Leif Fautanu** will need to solidify a real weakness of the team. In Dillingham's most successful years as an offensive coordinator at Oregon and Auburn he had veteran offensive lines, something he won't have at Arizona State. So, these transfers need to hit and skill position players such as wide receiver **Elijah Badger** and tight end **Jalin Conyers** will need to step up.

While Colorado and Coach Prime are receiving all the headlines for their roster overhaul, Dillingham has been nearly as busy bringing in 33 transfers himself. There are plenty on both sides of the ball, but the defense was what sank the Sun Devils last season and needs the most help. Finishing 104th in the country in total defense, there is a lot of improvement to be had. The main issue was in the run department where opponents averaged over five yards a carry. Incoming transfers **Clayton Smith** (Oklahoma) and **Prince Dorbah** (Texas) are quality defensive ends that should help solidify a weak line. Returning defensive tackle **B.J. Green II**, who led the team with 7.5 sacks, will be a nice match for the incoming transfers. The new aggressive defensive scheme under defensive coordinator Brian Ward should give his team a fighting chance against the high-potent offenses in the PAC 12.

**The Bottom Line:** Arizona State certainly upgraded both their coaching staff and the overall talent on the roster. However, this is a first year head coach in Dillingham and he will start a true freshman quarterback Jaden Rashada in one of the best conferences in the country. Expect that growing pains will abound throughout the season. The hope is that growth and improvement, specifically on offense, will be obvious by the end of the year. A successful season would include Rashada solidifying himself as a quality starter in the league, the offensive line holding up in protection and run blocking, and pulling an upset (or two) to increase morale. The schedule is daunting with the Sun Devils hosting Oklahoma State week two and matchups looming against the projected top four teams in the conference. Still, the early part of the season is manageable as four out of the first six games are truly winnable. A little early momentum would be invaluable as the new regime looks to create buy in. The victory over Washington last year was a nice consolidation price for a lost season, but a similar win this year could create real momentum going forward. It's early in the season, but a team like USC that overlooks the Sun Devils could be on upset alert if their tackling troubles persist. Either way, the key word for this season is growth.

**Projection: 3-9 (10th in PAC-12)**

## 2022 Statistics

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| Points Scored<br><b>26.1</b><br>80th in FBS   | Rush Yards<br><b>135.3</b><br>90th in FBS        | Pass Yards<br><b>251.9</b><br>47th in FBS       | Turnover Margin<br><b>-6</b><br>T-109th in FBS  |
| Points Allowed<br><b>31.4</b><br>108th in FBS | Rush YDS Allowed<br><b>188.1</b><br>107th in FBS | Pass YDS Allowed<br><b>233.4</b><br>79th in FBS |  |

## 2023 Arizona State Schedule

| Week | Date         | Team  |
|------|--------------|---|
| 1    | Thu, Aug 31  |  vs. Southern Utah |
| 2    | Sat, Sept 9  |  vs. Oklahoma St.  |
| 3    | Sat, Sept 16 |  vs. Fresno State  |
| 4    | Sat, Sept 23 |  vs. USC           |
| 5    | Sat, Sept 30 |  @ California      |
| 6    | Sat, Oct 7   |  vs. Colorado      |
| 7    | Bye Week     |   |
| 8    | Sat, Oct 21  |  @ Washington      |
| 9    | Sat, Oct 28  |  vs. Wash St.      |
| 10   | Sat, Nov 4   |  @ Utah            |
| 11   | Sat, Nov 11  |  @ UCLA           |
| 12   | Sat, Nov 18  |  vs. Oregon      |
| 13   | Sat, Nov 25  |  vs. Arizona     |

Conference Games in Bold

### KEY GAMES

**Sat, Sept 9: vs. Oklahoma State** - A difficult matchup, but one played at home, that pits two teams looking to rebuild off of respective disappointments in 2022.

**Sat, Sept 30: @ California** - The Golden Bears could already be in a proverbial "free fall" at this point in the season, but either way, this is one of the most winnable conference games for Dillingham in his first season.

**Sat, Oct 21: @ Washington** - The Huskies will be looking for revenge following last year's upset loss, but if they haven't fixed their secondary the Sun Devil passing attack could make them pay once again. Look to see if Rashada has shown growth by this point.

### KEY PLAYERS

#### Aaron Frost - OL



The graduate transfer from Nevada will be expected to make an instant impact at left tackle for the Sun Devils. A second-team All-Mountain West selection, his experience will be critical at a thin position group. He will be responsible to help protect and guide a young quarterback as he finds his footing.

#### B.J. Green II - DT

Leading the team with sacks the last two seasons (including 2.5 in 2022), Green will be asked to find quick chemistry with his new teammates on the defensive line. Fairing poorly against the run last season, these transfers need to work and for that to happen Green will need to show leadership as the elder statesman of the group.



### 2022 RESULTS (3-9)

#### Northern Arizona (W 40-3)

@ Oklahoma State (L 17-34)

Eastern Michigan (L 21-30)

Utah (L 13-34)

@ USC (L 25-42)

#### Washington (W 45-38)

@ Stanford (L 14-15)

#### @ Colorado (W 42-34)

UCLA (L 36-50)

@ Washington State (L 18-28)

Oregon State (L 7-31)

@ Arizona (L 35-38)

# SUN DEVILS

### RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

# 43rd

(Via 24/7 Sports)