

LSU BIO

National Championships - 4



SEC Championships: **12**
(Last: **2019**)

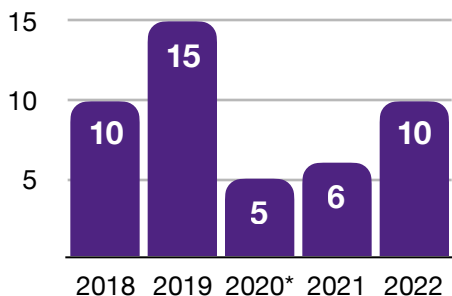
Location: **Baton Rouge, LA**

All-Time Record: **805-416-47**

2021 Results: **10-4**
Won Citrus Bowl

Head Coach: **Brian Kelly**
2nd Year (10-4)

5-YEAR WIN TREND



Tiger Stadium (102,321)

Baton Rouge is Back on College Football's Map

Brian Kelly had an interesting offseason heading into his first year with LSU which included a fake accent and an awkward and borderline cringy dance with a recruit who eventually signed with Alabama. The concerns only mounted when a game-tying extra point attempt against Florida State in the opener was blocked and the Tigers fell 23-24. However, those oddities are now far in the distance of the rear view mirror because Brian Kelly proved everyone wrong and instantaneously transformed the LSU program and won the SEC West. He hit a couple of home runs in the transfer portal including star quarterback **Jayden Daniels** and he pulled off a stunning upset over Alabama in overtime. There's still some steps Kelly and his team need to take in 2023 to continue their progression towards the very heights of college football, but it appears the veteran head coach heading into his 20th FBS season put LSU back on the map in just a single season.

A remarkable freshman season put Daniels on the map following his 2019 campaign with Arizona State. He threw for nearly 3,000 yards and recorded 17 touchdowns and only two interceptions. He guided the Sun Devils to eight wins in 2019 but then Arizona State played only four games in 2020. He delivered similar results in 2021 even in a mostly dysfunctional program and was eventually snatched up by LSU out of the portal. He then took his game to new heights with his. Best passing season and he ran for a whopping 885 yards and scored 11 touchdowns which led the team. If LSU finds more success in 2023 and Daniels continues to produce at an impeccable level, he'll earn himself an invitation to New York.

Daniels isn't the only threat that opposing defenses have to worry about. He may have been the primary running threat but the Tigers went four deep at running back with **Josh Williams** (532 yards), **Noah Cain** (409 yards), **John Emery** (375 yards) and **Armani Goodwin** (267 yards). As if that wasn't enough, LSU brought in **Logan Diggs** from Notre Dame where he ran for 820 yards and four touchdowns and accounted for 211 more yards through the air. Kelly and offensive coordinator Mike Denbrock will utilize all of these backs again and can rotate in a fresh runner at almost any time which gives LSU the threat of gashing a gassed defense on the ground.

There are plenty of weapons at receiver, too. **Malik Nabers** is back at receiver after 72 catches for 1,017 yards and is clearly one of the SEC's best. **Mason Taylor** had a breakout freshman season which included the two-point conversion catch to beat the Crimson Tide in overtime. **Brian Thomas** and **Karen Lacy** are back and Tigers also pulled former Alabama wide receiver **Aaron Anderson** out of the portal. With Daniels at quarterback, these receivers should thrive.


If there was a bone to pick on an offensive that scored 34.5 points per game, the answer is clearly the offensive line that allowed 45 sacks. **Charles Turner** anchors the line at center and tackles **Emery Jones** and **Will Campbell** are back and so too is **Miles Frazier** at guard. This unit is vastly more experienced than last season but does return several players from that shaky line.

Opponents passed the ball at will against the Tigers in Orgeron's last season (64.2% completion) but Kelly brought immediate improvement. The secondary will need to be retooled but transfers **Zy Alexander** (Southeast Louisiana) and **Darian Chestnut** should help smooth over the transition. The linebacking corps of **Greg Penn**, **Omar Speights** and **Harold Perkins** could be borderline elite. Perkins in particular was massively successful last season and collected 72 tackles and a team-best 7.5 sacks. **Mekhi Wingo** is one of the nation's best defensive tackles and **Sam'vion Jones** and **Maason Smith** could be just as talented but are not quite as proven yet.






The Bottom Line: It appears that Kelly truly built an SEC contender in a year. There are no glaring weaknesses and spirits are riding high in Baton Rouge. For the second straight season LSU plays only four true road games although one of those contests is a date in Tuscaloosa with Saban and the Tide. The season opener against Florida State could make or break Playoff hopes. If there's a criticism that has stuck with Kelly, it's his inability to win big games (BCS or New Year's Six, specifically), but he'll have plenty of time and opportunities to put that moniker to rest this season

Projection: 10-2 (2nd in SEC West)

2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
34.5	183.9	269.3	+1
24th in FBS	41st in FBS	29th in FBS	65th in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
22.5	148.4	206.2	
33rd in FBS	63rd in FBS	32nd in FBS	

2023 LSU Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Sun, Sept 3	 vs. Florida State*
2	Sat, Sept 9	 vs. Grambling
3	Sat, Sept 16	 @ Mississippi St.
4	Sat, Sept 23	 vs. Arkansas
5	Sat, Sept 30	 @ Mississippi
6	Sat, Oct 7	 @ Missouri
7	Sat, Oct 14	 vs. Auburn
8	Sat, Oct 21	 vs. Army
9	Bye Week	
10	Sat, Nov 4	 @ Alabama
11	Sat, Nov 11	 vs. Florida
12	Sat, Nov 18	 vs. Georgia State
13	Sat, Nov 25	 vs. Texas A&M

Conference Games in Bold

KEY GAMES

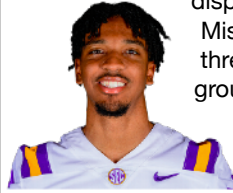
Sun, Sept 3: vs. Florida State* - Last year's "neutral site" game was played in New Orleans and this year the game moves to Orlando. The Tigers lost the game in heartbreaking fashion and, given the tough SEC schedule to follow, a win against a quality Florida State team feels like a necessity for Kelly and LSU.

Sat, Nov 4: @ Alabama - It's extremely rare for Nick Saban to lose to the same team two years in a row and Alabama has been incredibly dominant at home, period. LSU could be walking into a buzzsaw.

Sat, Nov 25: vs. Texas A&M - Will the Aggies be any good this season? Will LSU be playing for an SEC West title? Can the Tigers erase the memories of last year's 23-38 upset loss? Time will tell.

KEY PLAYERS

Jayden Daniels - QB



Daniels' overall talent is off the charts and he put it on display in back-to-back top ten victories over Mississippi and Alabama. Against the rebels he threw for 248 yards and added 121 more on the ground and scored five total touchdowns. That game was a microcosm of his dual-threat ability and he's one of the best returning quarterbacks in both the SEC and the country. He provides the Tigers with a chance to win every game they play.

Malik Nabers - WR

Nabers raised some eyes when he caught a pass and ran 60 yards in LSU's first victory of the season and he filled the WR1 role the rest of the season. He caught six passes against Alabama and showed off his wheels in a 128-yard game against Georgia's stout defense. He had 100 yards or more in three of his final four games and I'd be shocked if he doesn't improve upon his 3 TDs last year.



2022 RESULTS (10-4)

Florida State (L 23-24)
Southern (W 65-17)
Mississippi State (W 31-16)
New Mexico (W 38-0)
@ Auburn (W 21-17)
 Tennessee (L 13-40)
@ Florida (W 45-35)
Mississippi (W 45-20)
Alabama (W 32-31)
@ Arkansas (W 13-10)
UAB (W 41-10)
 @ Texas A&M (L 23-38)
 Georgia (L 30-50)
Purdue (W 63-7)



RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

6th

(Via 24/7 Sports)