

Offense

2008 Big 12/NCAA Rankings

Rushing Offense – 9th/83rd (126.77)

Passing Offense – 5th/8th (305.62)

Passing Efficiency – 7th/17th (149.93)

Total Offense – 7th/21st (432.38)

Scoring Offense – 8th/22nd (33.38)

Lettermen Returning – 18

Lettermen Lost – 9

Starters Returning – 8

Starters Lost – 4

Returning one of the nation's top quarterbacks, two of the country's best receivers and one of the Big 12 Conference's leading rushers, Kansas should continue to boast one of the NCAA's top offensive units as it has in the past two seasons. The Jayhawks return 18 lettermen, including eight starters, on the offensive side of the ball.

In 2008 KU established a school passing yardage average record at 305.62 yards per game, while posting the second-best total offense mark (432.38) and thirdbest scoring average (33.38) in school history. Those figures ranked eighth, 21st and 22nd, respectively, in the NCAA, a year after KU was in the top five in each of those categories.

Behind quarterback Todd Reesing, who will be in his third year as a starter with a 20-6 record, the Jayhawk offense should once again be one of the country's finest. A two-time Davey O'Brien Award semifinalist, Reesing already owns a number of school career records and the top two season marks in a number of categories.

He will have one of the country's best receivers to throw to in Dezmon Briscoe and Kerry Meier. Both members of the duo caught at least 90 passes and produced more than 1,000 receiving yards last season. In 2008 Meier tied for sixth in the NCAA with 97 receptions, which he turned into 1,045 yards and eight touchdowns, while Briscoe was fourth in the country in yards at 1,407 while adding a schoolrecord 15 touchdowns on his 92 catches.

Emerging as the featured running back ahead of Big 12 Conference play, Jake Sharp became a reliable runner and receiver out of the backfield. He rushed for 100-plus yards in three games, including 181 vs. Kansas State. He also became the first running back in school history to record 100 receiving yards in a single game with 107 vs. Iowa State. On the year he averaged 66.2 rushing yards per game, with an 88.8 rushing average in Big 12 Conference games.

Up front the Jayhawks return two talented tackles in sophomores Jeremiah Hatch and Jeff Spikes and have depth with the experience Ben Lueken gained as a freshman last year as well. KU will need to replace the three interior positions on the line, including 2008 All-Big 12 Honorable Mention selections Ryan Cantrell

and Adrian Mayes and two-year starter Chet Hartley.