



As Illinois head football coach Ron Turner enters his seventh year at the helm of the program, he looks to continue one of the greatest turnarounds in college football taking an 0-11 team in 1997 to the Big Ten Championship in 2001. In addition to returning the program to national prominence, Turner has engineered an offense that continues to post numbers that break school records and have the Illini among the top scorers in the country year-in and year-out.

The 2002 offense set a new school mark for total offense, averaging 446.3 yards per game, which also ranked ninth nationally. Turners high-powered offenses now rank in three of the schools top-5 spots. In each of the past two seasons, Turner-coached quarterbacks have led the conference in passing and the team has held the top spot as well. Last season, Illinois fans saw the compilation of probably the greatest wide receiving corp in school history. The Brandon Lloyd, Walter Young, Aaron Moorehead and Greg Lewis combination accounted for 57 touchdowns, and over 7,700 receiving yards in the past four years. At least three of the four rank on every career receiving record list.

Not to leave out the rushing game, the Turner era has produced three of the best running backs in school history. In 2002, senior Antoino Harris capped his career with a 178-yard performance to break the single-season record. He also moved to second on the career list, behind only Robert Holcombe who set the career mark in 1997. The 2001 graduate, Rocky Harvey ranks fifth on that list. The championship run in 2001 marked many firsts for the Illini. It was the first outright Big Ten title for Illinois in 18 years and the teams first ever berth in the Bowl Championship Series. The 10-win season was only the fourth for an Illini squa...

Ron Turner

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