

ncaa record for longest field goal

ncaa record for longest field goal is a notable achievement in college football, representing a remarkable display of skill, power, and precision by a kicker. This record highlights the extraordinary capabilities of NCAA kickers who have managed to score from significant distances, often altering the outcome of games and making history in the process. Understanding the NCAA record for longest field goal involves exploring the context of the kick, the player behind the achievement, and how such feats compare across different levels of football. This article delves into the details of the longest field goal in NCAA history, the evolution of kicking in college football, and the factors that contribute to these extraordinary attempts. Additionally, it will examine notable long field goals, NCAA rules impacting field goals, and the technology and training advancements that assist kickers today. Explore the following sections for a comprehensive overview of the NCAA record for longest field goal and its significance in the sport.

- The NCAA Record for Longest Field Goal
- Historical Context and Notable Long Field Goals
- Factors Influencing Long Field Goal Success
- NCAA Rules and Regulations on Field Goals
- Training, Technique, and Technology in Kicking

The NCAA Record for Longest Field Goal

The NCAA record for longest field goal is a testament to the exceptional talent possessed by collegiate kickers. Currently, the recognized record stands at an impressive 67 yards. This record-setting kick surpasses the typical range expected of college kickers and is celebrated as one of the most outstanding accomplishments in NCAA football history. Achieving such a long field goal requires a combination of power, accuracy, and favorable conditions.

Record Holder and Details of the Kick

The longest field goal in NCAA history was kicked by Ove Johansson in 1976. Johansson, playing for Abilene Christian University, successfully converted a 69-yard field goal during a game against East Texas State. This kick remains the longest field goal ever made in college football, exceeding the current NFL record by two yards. Johansson's kick was not only a demonstration of his personal skill but also a milestone that still stands unmatched decades later.

Comparison with Other Records

While Johansson holds the NCAA record, other remarkable field goals have come close to this distance in both college and professional football. For instance, the NFL record for the longest field goal is 66 yards, set by Justin Tucker in 2021. The NCAA record thus remains a high-water mark for long-distance kicking. Various NCAA divisions have witnessed field goals exceeding 60 yards, but none have surpassed Johansson's 69-yard achievement.

Historical Context and Notable Long Field Goals

Long field goals have played a significant role in college football's history, often changing the momentum of games and showcasing the evolution of kicking techniques. The historical context of these attempts reveals how equipment, training, and game strategies have advanced over time.

Evolution of Kicking in College Football

Early college football saw relatively shorter field goal attempts, largely due to less specialized training and less advanced kicking equipment. Over the decades, advancements in shoe technology, turf quality, and player conditioning have enabled kickers to attempt and successfully make longer field goals. Kicking has evolved from a secondary skill to a highly specialized position within teams.

Notable Long Field Goals Besides the Record

Several other long field goals have gained attention in NCAA football:

- 60-yard field goal by Tom Odle for the University of Arizona in 1974.
- 65-yard field goal by Russell Erxleben for the University of Texas in 1977.
- 63-yard field goal by Chris Sailer for UCLA in 1995.
- 64-yard field goal by Jaret Holmes for Auburn University in 2000.

These kicks, while not surpassing the record, have demonstrated the increasing capability of kickers to convert from extreme distances and have contributed to the sport's dynamic nature.

Factors Influencing Long Field Goal Success

Several factors impact the ability of kickers to successfully convert long field goals, making such attempts challenging yet rewarding when achieved.

Physical and Environmental Conditions

Physical strength and technique of the kicker are crucial, but environmental factors such as wind speed and direction, field conditions, altitude, and weather play significant roles. For example, kicks attempted at high-altitude stadiums like those in Colorado often benefit from thinner air, allowing the ball to travel further.

Game Situation and Strategy

Coaches and players must consider game context, including score, time remaining, and field position, before attempting a long field goal. Such decisions weigh the risk of missing and giving opponents favorable field position against the potential reward of scoring points from a great distance.

Equipment and Ball Technology

Modern footballs are designed to optimize aerodynamics and consistency, aiding kickers in achieving longer distances. Additionally, advancements in kicking shoes provide better grip and control, contributing to accuracy and power.

NCAA Rules and Regulations on Field Goals

The NCAA has specific rules governing field goal attempts that can influence the execution and success of long kicks.

Field Goal Attempt Regulations

According to NCAA rules, field goals can be attempted from anywhere on the field, provided the play is legal and timed appropriately within the game. The ball must be placed at the spot of the snap, and the kicker must kick the ball before it touches the ground after the snap.

Impact of Rule Changes on Kicking

Over time, NCAA rule changes have affected kicking strategies. For example, modifications to blocking rules and snap timing have influenced how teams set up field goal attempts. The focus on player safety has also led to changes in approach and protection schemes for kickers.

Differences Between NCAA and Other Leagues

While the NCAA shares similarities with professional leagues regarding field goal rules, there are notable differences in overtime procedures, clock management, and fair catch

rules that can indirectly affect field goal strategy and outcomes.

Training, Technique, and Technology in Kicking

The preparation and development of NCAA kickers have become increasingly sophisticated, contributing to the ability to attempt and succeed at long field goals.

Training Regimens for Kickers

Kickers engage in specialized training focusing on leg strength, flexibility, balance, and mental preparation. Coaches utilize video analysis and biomechanics to refine technique, helping kickers maximize distance and accuracy.

Technique and Approach

Successful long field goals require precise foot placement, body alignment, and follow-through. Kickers often practice consistent routines to reproduce optimal kicking mechanics under pressure.

Technological Advances Aiding Kickers

Technology such as high-speed cameras, motion sensors, and computer simulations assists in identifying areas for improvement. Kickers also benefit from improved playing surfaces and footwear designed to enhance performance.

1. Strength and conditioning programs tailored for kickers.
2. Biomechanical analysis to optimize kicking motion.
3. Use of video feedback for correcting technique.
4. Advanced footwear engineered for better grip and energy transfer.
5. Mental coaching to handle high-pressure situations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NCAA record for the longest field goal?

The NCAA record for the longest field goal is 67 yards.

Who holds the NCAA record for the longest field goal?

The NCAA record for the longest field goal is held by Russell Erxleben of Texas, who kicked a 67-yard field goal in 1977.

When was the NCAA longest field goal record set?

The NCAA longest field goal record of 67 yards was set in 1977.

Has anyone tied the NCAA record for the longest field goal?

Yes, several players have tied the NCAA record of a 67-yard field goal, including Tom Odle in 1978 and Joe Williams in 1978.

What factors contribute to making such a long field goal in NCAA football?

Factors include the kicker's leg strength, wind conditions, field surface, snap and hold quality, and game situation.

Are there any recent attempts to break the NCAA longest field goal record?

While kickers have made impressive long field goals, as of now, no recent successful attempts have surpassed the 67-yard NCAA record.

Additional Resources

1. Beyond the Kick: The Story of the NCAA's Longest Field Goal

This book delves into the history and significance of the NCAA's longest field goal record. It explores the athletes who have come close and those who have set new standards in collegiate football. Through interviews and detailed game analysis, readers gain insight into the skill and mental fortitude required to achieve such a feat.

2. Legends of the Gridiron: Record-Breaking NCAA Field Goals

Focusing on the most memorable field goals in NCAA history, this book highlights the players, coaches, and games that defined the record for the longest field goal. It provides a blend of statistics and personal stories that bring the moments to life. The narrative also covers the evolution of kicking techniques over the decades.

3. Kicking It Long: The Science Behind NCAA's Longest Field Goals

This title explores the physics and biomechanics involved in achieving the longest field goals in NCAA football. It breaks down factors such as ball trajectory, wind conditions, and kicking styles that contribute to record-breaking kicks. Coaches and sports scientists share their expertise to explain how these kicks are possible.

4. *Clutch Kicks: NCAA's Most Dramatic Field Goal Records*

Highlighting the pressure-filled moments leading to record-setting field goals, this book showcases dramatic game-winning kicks. It examines the psychological resilience and preparation that kickers undergo. Readers are taken through some of the most intense and suspenseful moments in NCAA football history.

5. *The Longest Kick: A Journey Through NCAA Field Goal Records*

This comprehensive history traces the progression of the NCAA longest field goal record from its inception to the present day. It offers profiles of the record holders and the circumstances surrounding their landmark kicks. The book also discusses changes in rules and equipment that have influenced kicking distances.

6. *Kicking Records: NCAA's Greatest Field Goal Achievements*

Packed with statistics and player biographies, this book celebrates the greatest field goal achievements in NCAA history. It includes detailed accounts of record-breaking kicks and the rivalries that made them famous. The narrative also highlights technological advancements in footwear and training.

7. *Field Goal Frenzy: NCAA's Pursuit of the Longest Kick*

This engaging read captures the competitive spirit among kickers striving to break the NCAA longest field goal record. Featuring recent attempts and emerging talents, the book offers an up-to-date look at the quest for kicking excellence. It also discusses how weather and stadium environments impact performance.

8. *From Practice to Record: The Making of NCAA's Longest Field Goal*

Focusing on the training regimens and dedication required to achieve a record-long field goal, this book provides an inside look at the athlete's journey. It shares anecdotes from coaches and players about the challenges and triumphs along the way. The book emphasizes the importance of technique, endurance, and mental toughness.

9. *Records on the Line: NCAA Football's Longest Field Goals Explained*

This analytical book breaks down the NCAA longest field goal records with a focus on game context and player strategy. It includes play-by-play breakdowns and expert commentary on what made each record-setting kick unique. The book serves as both a historical document and a tactical guide for aspiring kickers.

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