

2026 OSU Fan Survey by Dave Hudson (@okc_dave)

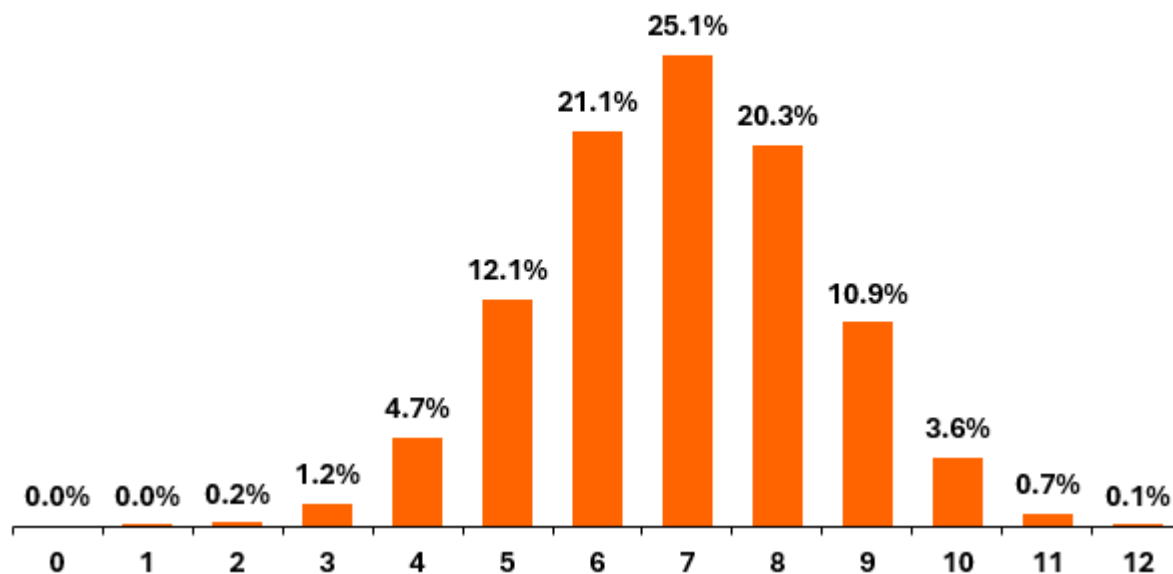
Thank you for taking the time to complete the 19th annual survey. **1,180** of you submitted a response.

Game Predictions

OSU fans believe this team will win **6.9 regular season games** in year one of the Eric Morris era. That's up half a game from last year's survey-low 6.4, but still the 2nd-lowest total in the 19-year history of this survey. Reasonable, given the roster overhaul and a first-time head coach. Vegas has the line at 6.5 wins, and fans give themselves a 61% chance of clearing it. Using averages from the survey, the most likely single outcome is **7 wins (25%)**, with 6 wins close behind (21%). It's a fairly normal bell curve this year, without the extreme uncertainty we saw a year ago.

The optimism that went missing in 2025 is back, even if the raw win total says fans are still being careful about how far to extend that optimism.

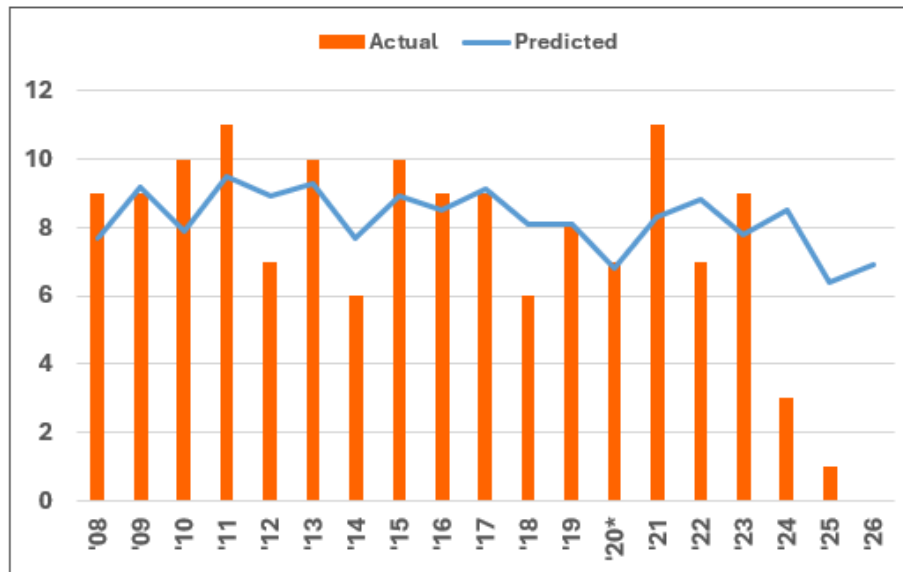
% chance OSU finishes the regular season with ____ wins:



7 wins is the most likely outcome, but 6 and 8 wins are both very much in play: $\frac{2}{3}$ of simulated seasons land in the 6-8 win range.

Over the last 18 seasons, fans participating in the survey have predicted a total of **149.5 regular season wins**. The team has actually won **142**; a net shortfall of 7.5 games, almost entirely explained by the last two seasons' historic misses (-5.5 in 2024, -5.4 in 2025: by far the two largest misses in survey history, and the reason we're doing this whole exercise with a new coach this year). Take out Gundy's tailspin over the last two years, and the fan base's 16-year track record is remarkably accurate: predicted 134.6, actual 138; if anything, a little too cautious.

Year	Predicted	Actual	Bowl
'08	7.7	9	Holiday Bowl loss to Oregon
'09	9.2	9	Cotton Bowl loss to Ole Miss
'10	7.9	10	Alamo Bowl win over Arizona
'11	9.5	11	Fiesta Bowl win over Stanford
'12	8.9	7	Heart of Dallas Bowl win over Purdue
'13	9.3	10	Cotton Bowl loss to Missouri
'14	7.7	6	Cactus Bowl win over Washington
'15	8.9	10	Sugar Bowl loss to Ole Miss
'16	8.5	9	Alamo Bowl win over Colorado
'17	9.1	9	Camping World Bowl win over VT
'18	8.1	6	Liberty Bowl win over Missouri
'19	8.1	8	Texas Bowl loss to A&M
'20*	6.8	7	Cheez-It Bowl win over Miami
'21	8.3	11	Fiesta Bowl win over Notre Dame
'22	8.8	7	Guaranteed Rate Bowl loss to Wisconsin
'23	7.8	9	Texas Bowl win over A&M
'24	8.5	3	-
'25	6.4	1	-
'26	6.9		

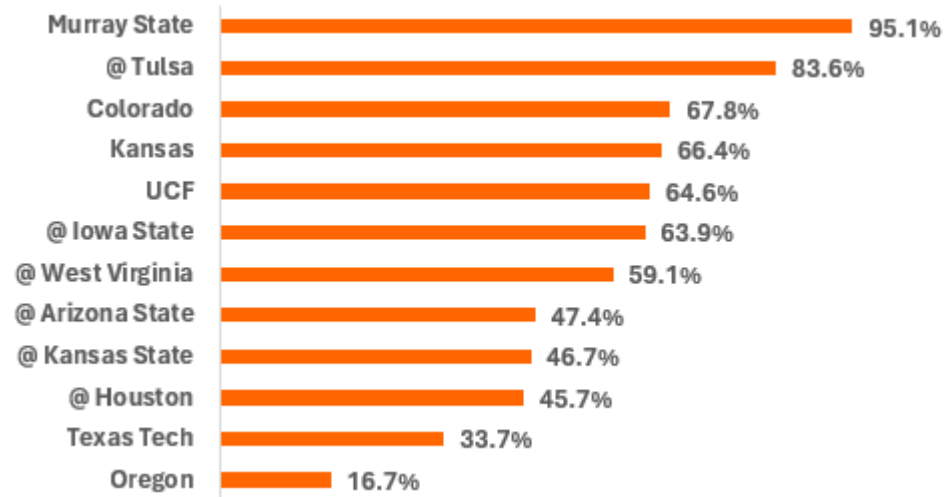


*10-game schedule due to Covid

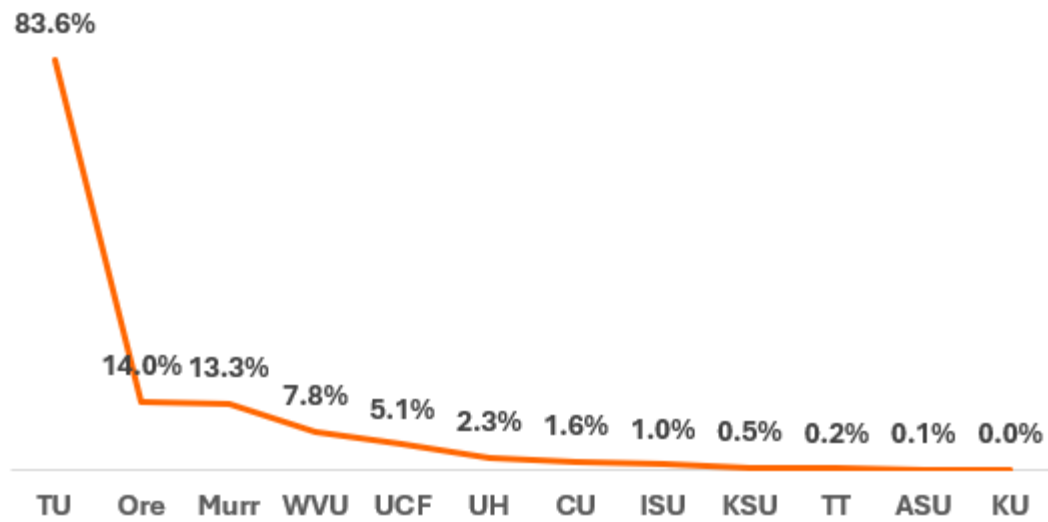
Note: predictions and actuals are based on the regular season only.

What are the chances OSU will win the following game?

There are two games fans feel genuinely certain about winning, Murray State (95%) and @ Tulsa (84%); and one they're just as confident about losing, Oregon (17%) - and then a long stretch of the schedule where confidence never gets much higher than a "probably." Colorado, Kansas, UCF, and @ Iowa State all sit in the mid-60s, and three games (@ Arizona State, @ Kansas State, @ Houston) are effectively coin flips. Translation: outside of the first three weeks, there's a lot of "anything can happen" on this schedule.



Oregon in Week 2 is the obvious dagger here: the chance of an undefeated season drops from 84% to 14% in a single game. By the time we get through the non-conference slate, it's already down to 13%.



Here are a few odds and ends about the season.

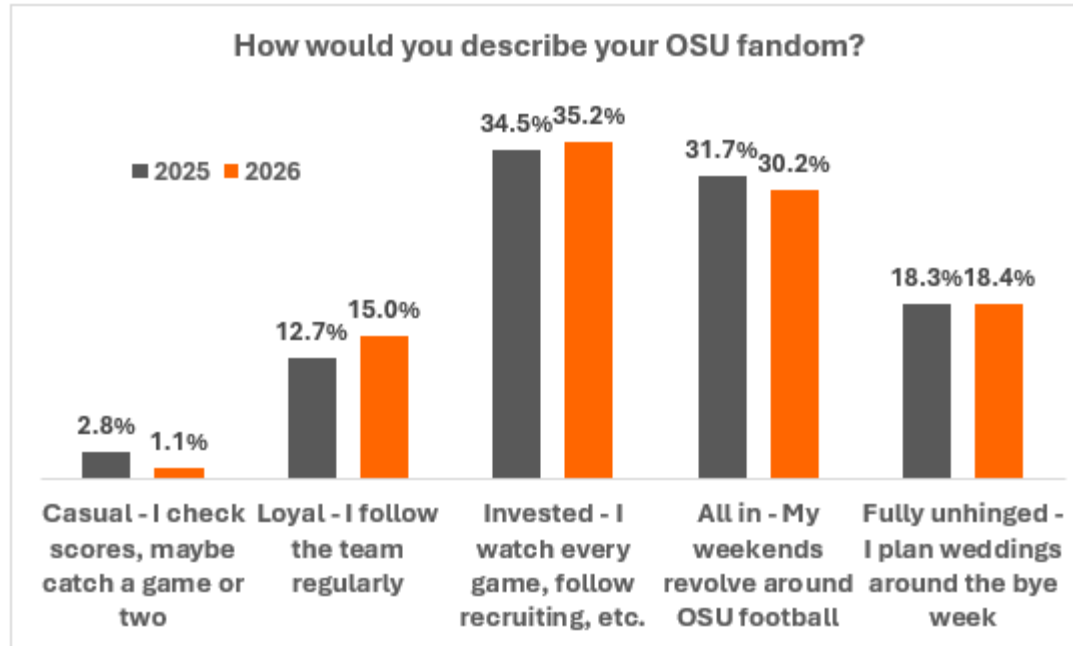
Season	Chance of Going 12-0 (1 in ...)	"Gimme" games (85%+)	Odd of Playing in Big 12 Title Game
2008	∞	-	-
2009	33	-	-
2010	∞	-	-
2011	21	7	-
2012	56	4	-
2013	23	3	-
2014	667	3	-
2015	51	4	-
2016	99	3	-
2017	34	3	17%
2018	147	3	39%
2019	192	3	36%
2020	65	2	58%
2021	147	3	41%
2022	55	4	60%
2023	227	1	32%
2024	70	1	65%
2025	3,987	1	18%
2026	267	1	27%

- I consider games with an 85%+ chance of winning as "gimme" games. Murray State is the only one that qualifies this year — same as 2025, and still well off the pace of 2011's remarkable 7 gimmes.
- Fans give OSU a **27% chance of playing in the Big 12 title game** — a modest rebound from last year's 18%, but nowhere close to the 65% fans felt going into 2024.
- 1-in-267 to run the table. Not 2011 odds, but a lot better than last year's virtually-impossible number.
- A final note on 2025: fans gave a 1-win season just a 1-in-1,667 chance at this point last year, far longer odds than this year's 1-in-267 shot at going undefeated. And that's exactly what happened. (so you're telling me there's a chance...)

OSU Fandom

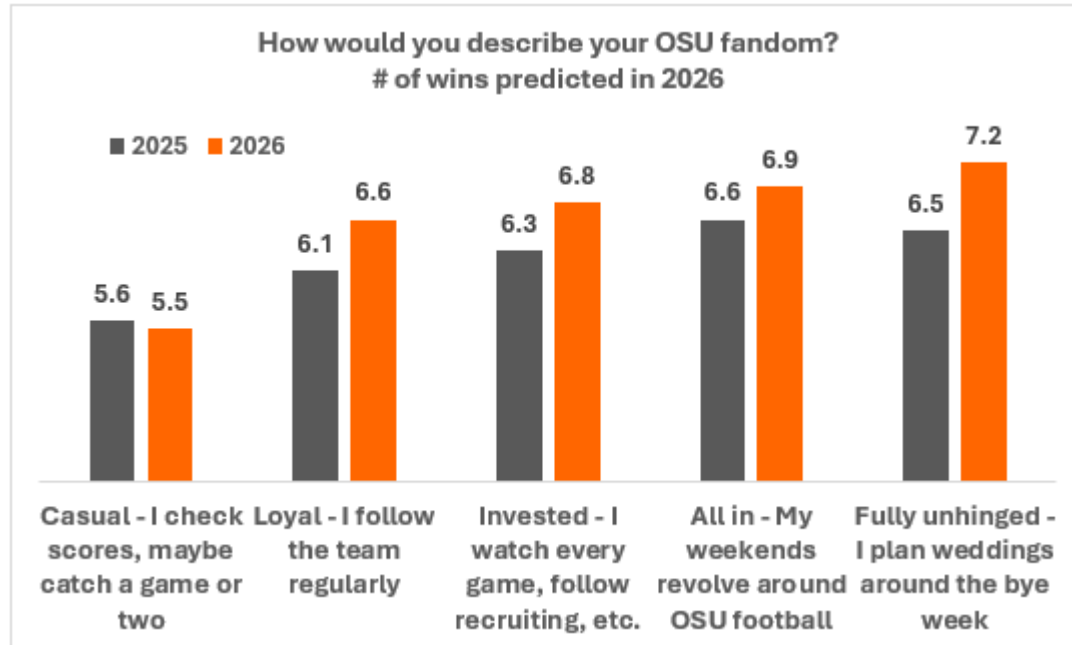
I thought it would be interesting to see how fans rate themselves. It shouldn't be too surprising that the self-selecting group that is willing to

fill out a lengthy survey about OSU football leans rabid. One shift worth noting: the "casual" fan bucket nearly vanished this year, down to 1.1% from 2.8% in 2025. Make of that what you will: maybe we lost those casual fans, the Morris buzz pulled in a more committed crowd, or the casual fans who stuck around through 2025's disaster are all-in now.



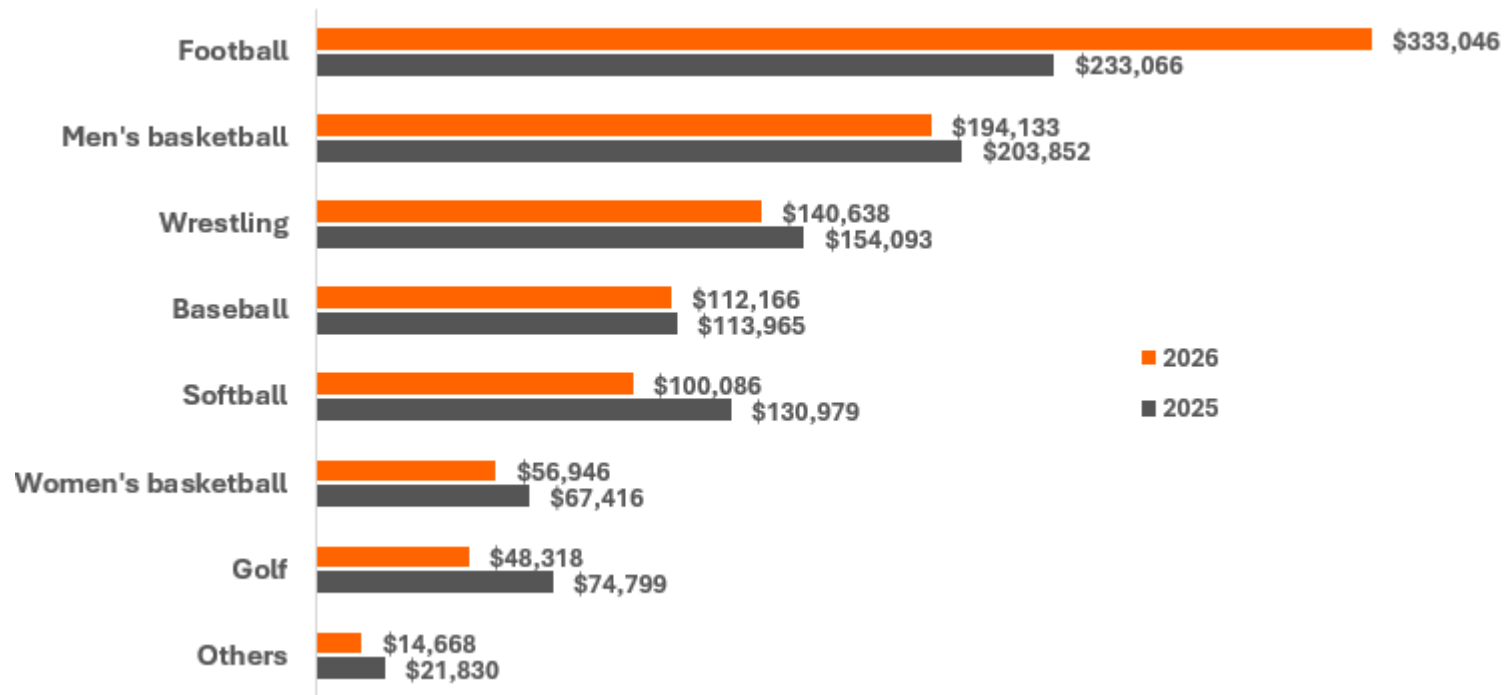
I was curious to see if there was any link between a fan's self-diagnosis on the question above and their hopes for the season. Here are expected win totals by category of fan:

Generally speaking, the more invested you are in the Pokes, the better you think they'll do this year. I love it. Every group except "Casual" got more optimistic than last year, and the "Fully unhinged" crowd saw the biggest jump: from 6.5 wins in 2025 to **7.2 this year**, half a win ahead of the "Loyal" group. Meanwhile the small remaining pool of "Casual" fans is basically flat at 5.5, the only group that didn't catch the optimism wave.



NIL

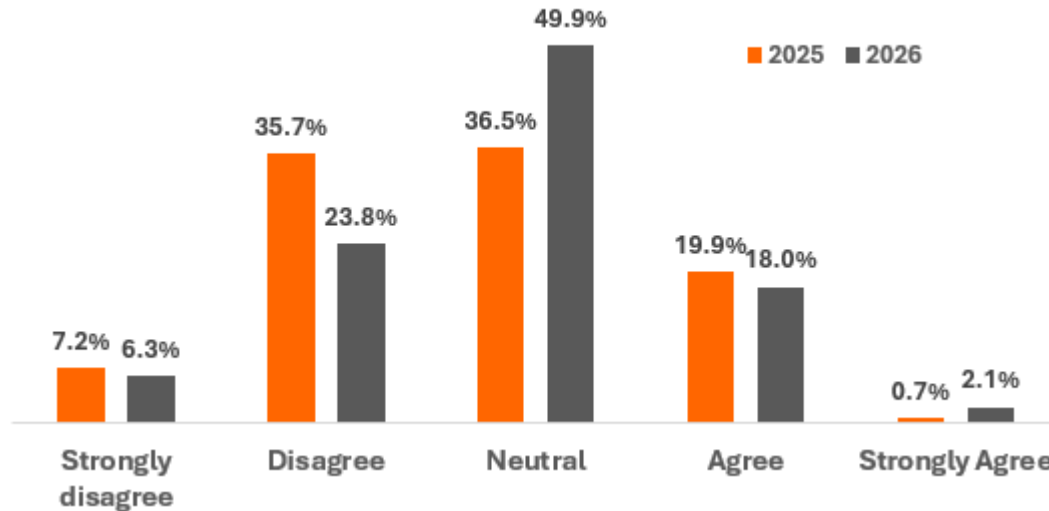
You have \$1 million to donate to OSU's NIL fund. You choose the following sports:



Football's share of the hypothetical \$1 million jumped noticeably this year, up about \$100k from 2025 to \$333k, the largest slice by a wide margin. That gain came at the expense of essentially every other sport. Men's basketball, wrestling, and softball all saw their allocations shrink, and golf took the biggest percentage hit of any sport.

One reversal worth noting: last year softball out-earned baseball (\$131k to \$114k). This year that flipped, with baseball edging softball. Whether that's a baseball resurgence or just football pulling dollars away from the field's other "money sports," hard to say.

I feel OSU is well-positioned to compete in the NIL era



Fans have gotten less pessimistic here, but "less pessimistic" isn't the same as "confident." The share of fans who disagree or strongly disagree that OSU is well-positioned for the NIL era dropped from 43% in 2025 to 30% this year. But that shift didn't move much into the "agree" camp (basically flat over last year); instead it mostly piled into "neutral," which jumped from 36.5% to 50%. Read it as a fan base withholding judgment on the new regime rather than one that's been won over.

Games, polls, etc.

If I could pick one game for OSU to win this year, it would be...

Season	1st	Team	2nd	Team
2009	44%	OU	35%	Texas
2010	51%	OU	23%	Texas
2011	80%	OU	19%	A&M
2012	58%	OU	27%	Texas
2013	63%	OU	20%	Texas
2014	64%	OU	28%	Florida St.
2015	68%	OU	14%	Baylor
2016	88%	OU	5%	Baylor
2017	91%	OU	2%	Texas
2018	89%	OU	3%	Texas
2019	83%	OU	10%	Texas
2020	86%	OU	7%	Texas
2021	86%	OU	7%	Texas
2022	86%	OU	7%	Baylor
2023	92%	OU	3%	K-State
2024	66%	Utah	18%	K-State
2025	54%	Oregon	23%	Texas Tech
2026	45%	Oregon	42%	Texas Tech

For the second year in a row, a non-conference game topped this question, but the story this year is how close it is. Oregon holds onto the top spot (45%), with Texas Tech right behind at 42%, the tightest 1st-to-2nd margin in the history of this question by a wide margin. Oregon comes in as the preseason #2 team in the country, a measuring-stick game if there ever was one, while Texas Tech (#12 in the coaches poll) is the heavy favorite to win the Big 12. With OU off the schedule and no single "must-win" rivalry left, fans are genuinely split between wanting the statement win over a top-2 team and wanting a win that might help shape the Big 12 race.

Predict the Big 12 final standings

Rk	Team	Coaches Poll
1	Texas Tech	12
2	BYU	15
3	Houston	24
4	Oklahoma St.	37
5	Utah	21
6	Arizona St.	44
7	Kansas St.	52
8	Arizona	31
9	TCU	28
10	Iowa St.	-
11	Baylor	-
12	WVU	-
13	Kansas	-
14	UCF	-
15	Cincinnati	-
16	Colorado	-

Fans picked OSU 4th in the conference and behind only Texas Tech (#12 in the pre-season coaches poll), BYU (#15), and Houston (#24).

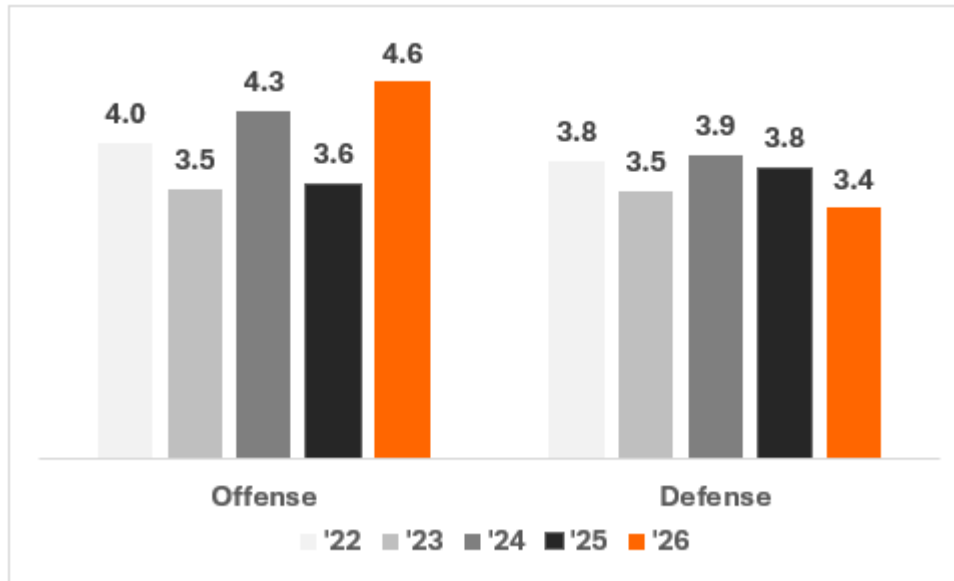
Where will OSU finish in the polls?

Season	Pre-Season	Fan Survey
2012	19	12
2013	14	8
2014	30	21
2015	28	13
2016	19	14
2017	11	5
2018	25	19
2019	41	19
2020	16	12
2021	22	16
2022	11	11
2023	43	20
2024	18	12
2025	-	24
2026	37	23

Fans predict OSU finishes the season ranked #23. A note on methodology: I use a #26 ranking when calculating the average whenever a respondent predicts OSU finishes unranked. In the good old days, that assumption barely moved the number, since the vast majority of fans expected a ranked finish. So this year's calculation may lean a bit generous. Still, some good news: last year, 73% of respondents believed OSU would finish unranked. This year, only 47% expect an unranked finish.

Offensive and Defensive Improvement:

I expect the offense/defense to perform at the following level (1 = worst; 5 = best):



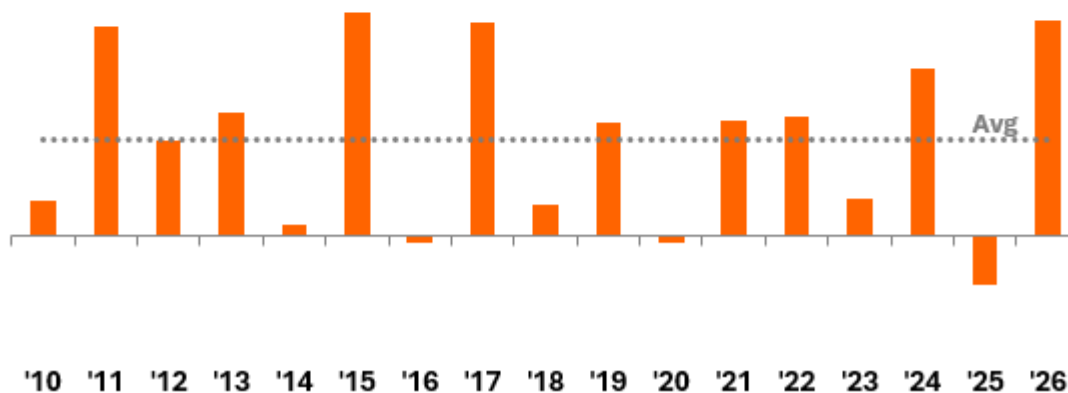
Fans expect a big step forward on offense and a step back on defense, which tracks with the staff turnover. The offense rating jumped to 4.6, by far the highest mark of the last five years and a clear vote of confidence in Morris calling his own plays alongside Brophy. Defense dropped to 3.4, the lowest of the last five years, reflecting some uncertainty around new DC Skyler Cassity and the retooled unit. Put together: fans think this team scores more than it did last year, but also gives up more.

Interest Level

In the days & weeks leading up to this season, I have been _____ than last year (reading articles, scanning message boards, talking to friends about the team, etc.):

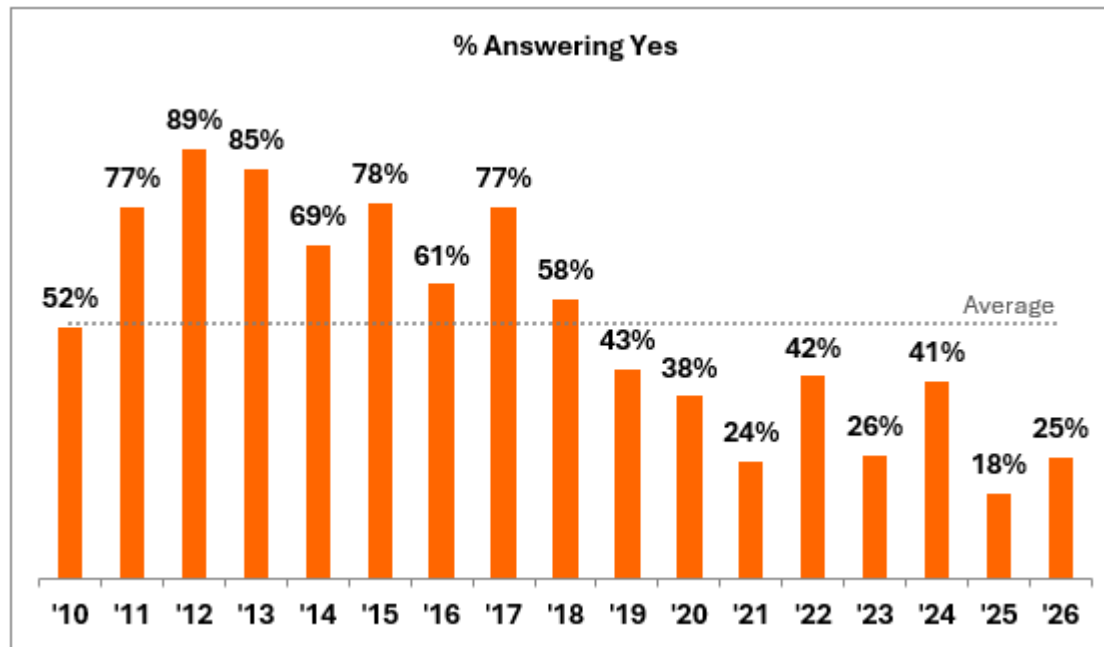
Interest Level	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	'24	'25	'26
Much more interested	13%	31%	14%	16%	8%	36%	2%	31%	10%	19%	13%	21%	17%	14%	23%	10%	39%
A little more interested	17%	36%	24%	32%	17%	35%	26%	38%	20%	31%	22%	31%	30%	24%	39%	16%	31%
(no change)	47%	31%	55%	47%	51%	26%	52%	29%	47%	37%	28%	31%	44%	34%	30%	32%	22%
A little less interested	19%	1%	7%	6%	19%	0%	9%	2%	19%	10%	22%	13%	7%	20%	6%	25%	5%
Much less interested	4%	0%	0%	0%	4%	2%	12%	0%	4%	3%	14%	3%	1%	8%	1%	16%	3%

Interest Index



This is about as dramatic a swing as this question has ever produced. "Much more interested" jumped to 39%, the highest single-year total in the 17 years I've asked this question, topping the old high of 36% back in 2015. Combine the two "more interested" categories and you get 70% of fans entering 2026 more engaged than the year before, trailing only 2015's 71%. On the other end, "much less interested" collapsed to just 3%, down from last year's record-setting 16%. After 2025's historic low enthusiasm, this is about as clean a reversal as you could ask for, and about as strong a signal as any chart in this survey that the Morris hire has genuinely re-energized the fan base.

Will OSU football play in a national championship game in the next 10 years?



Fans are a bit more hopeful here, but not by much. **25%** of respondents believe OSU will play in a national championship game in the next 10 years, up slightly from last year's all-time low of 18%, but still well below the long-term average. For context, this question peaked at 89% in 2012, in the immediate afterglow of the 2011 near-miss season. Fourteen years later, we're still working off a fraction of that belief. A new coach helps, but rebuilding a fan base's ceiling expectations takes more than a good hire.

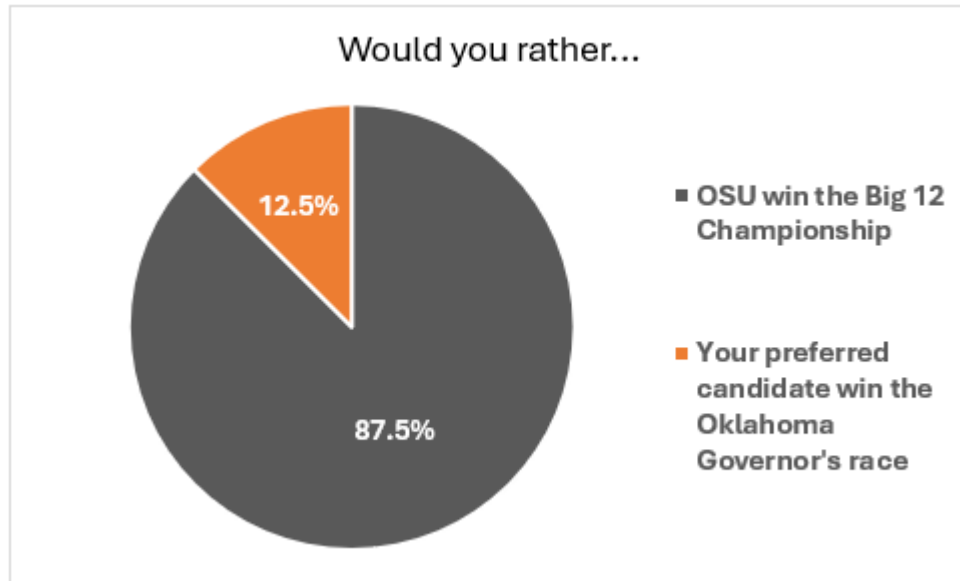
I would rather OSU win a national championship in _____:

Season	Football	Basketball	Wrestling	Baseball	Softball	Golf	FB-BB Gap
2011	92%	8%	-	-	-	-	84%
2012	92%	8%	-	-	-	-	84%
2013	88%	12%	-	-	-	-	76%
2014	88%	12%	-	-	-	-	76%
2015	90%	7%	1%	2%	-	-	83%
2016	84%	11%	1%	5%	-	-	73%
2017	91%	6%	1%	2%	-	-	85%
2018	83%	12%	2%	3%	-	-	71%
2019	77%	16%	4%	2%	-	1%	61%
2020	69%	23%	3%	4%	-	1%	46%
2021	66%	26%	4%	4%	-	1%	39%
2022	83%	9%	3%	5%	-	1%	74%
2023	77%	13%	3%	5%	1%	1%	64%
2024	82%	7%	3%	5%	2%	0%	75%
2025	71%	12%	9%	4%	5%	1%	59%
2026	74%	9%	9%	5%	3%	1%	65%

Football's grip on this question ticked back up: 74% of fans picked football this year, up from 71% in 2025, though still below the 77-92% range that was typical from 2011 through 2019. Basketball held steady at 9%, matching last year. Wrestling has quietly become the real story of this question: after sitting at 1% or lower for most of the survey's history, it's now recorded back-to-back years at 9%, tied with basketball for 2nd place.

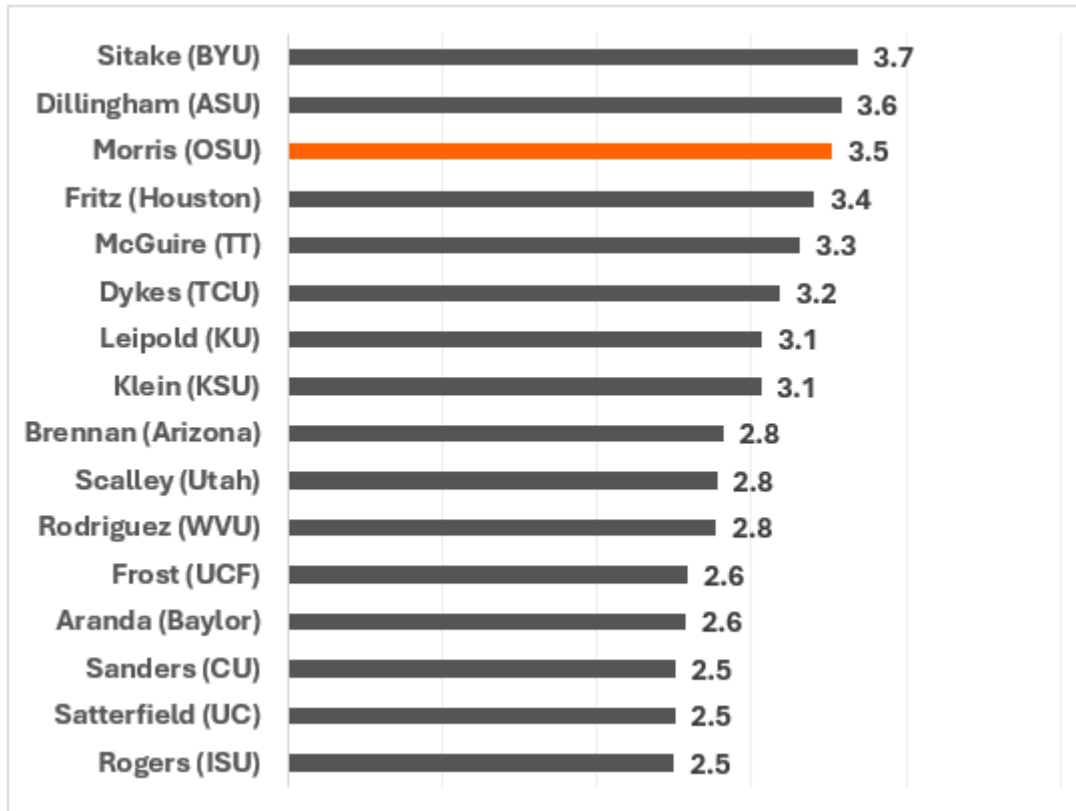
Would you rather...

Given the choice between OSU winning the Big 12 Championship or their preferred candidate winning the Oklahoma governor's race, 87.5% of fans picked the Big 12 title. Keep this number in your back pocket the next time someone tells you sports don't matter to people.



Big 12 Coaches

Rank the Big 12 coaches on a 1-5 scale:



Eric Morris debuts at **3.5**, good for 3rd in the conference behind only Kalani Sitake (BYU, 3.7) and Kenny Dillingham (Arizona State, 3.6). For a coach with zero games in Stillwater, that's a strong vote of confidence, and it's worth noting Morris outranks several coaches with real track records at their current jobs, including TCU's Sonny Dykes (3.2) and Kansas's Lance Leipold (3.1).

OSU fans have a long history of rating their own coach generously in this question, so some homerism is baked in here, but it's a clean start for Morris.

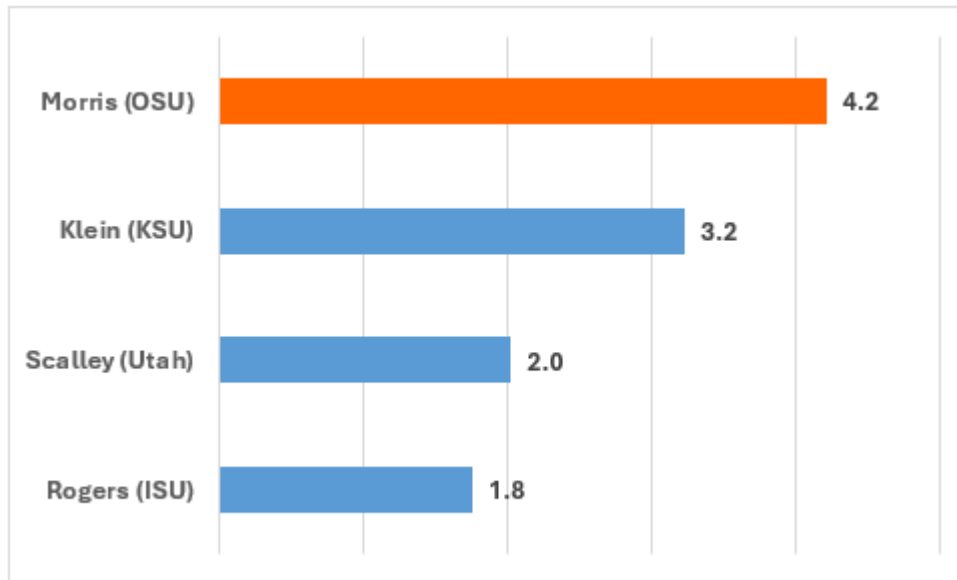
Historical Big 12 Coach Rankings

Rk	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1	Gundy	Snyder	Riley	Riley	Riley	Gundy	Klieman	Gundy	Klieman	Sitake (BYU)
2	Snyder	Gundy	Gundy	Patterson	Campbell	Aranda	Gundy	Whittingham	Whittingham	Dillingham (ASU)
3	Patterson	Patterson	Patterson	Gundy	Gundy	Campbell	Dykes	Klieman	Campbell	Morris (OSU)
4	Holgorsen	Riley	Campbell	Campbell	Patterson	Klieman	Aranda	Leipold	Dillingham	Fritz (Houston)
5	Herman	Campbell	Rhule	Miles	Klieman	Venables	Leipold	Campbell	Gundy	McGuire (TT)
6	Riley	Holgorsen	Miles	Klieman	Sarkisian	Dykes	McGuire	Malzahn	Leipold	Dykes (TCU)
7	Beaty	Herman	Herman	Wells	Brown	Leipold	Campbell	Dykes	Sitake	Leipold (KU)
8	Campbell	Rhule	Klieman	Aranda	Aranda	Sarkisian	Malzahn	Aranda	Dykes	Klein (KSU)
9	Rhule	Kingsbury	Wells	Brown	Wells	McGuire	Sitake	McGuire	Aranda	Brennan (Arizona)
10	Kingsbury	Beaty	Brown	Herman	Leipold	Brown	Holgorsen	Brown	McGuire	Scalley (Utah)
11	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sarkisian	Sitake	Sanders	Rodriguez (WVU)
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	Venables	Sanders	Rodriguez	Frost (UCF)
13	-	-	-	-	-	-	Satterfield	Fritz	Fritz	Aranda (Baylor)
14	-	-	-	-	-	-	Brown	Brennan	Frost	Sanders (CU)
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dillingham	Brennan	Satterfield (UC)
16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Satterfield	Satterfield	Rogers (ISU)

Morris debuts at #3 in the conference rankings Sitake (BYU) takes the top spot, with Dillingham (Arizona State) at #2. It's a clean start, and a useful contrast to how this table looked a year ago: Gundy had fallen to 5th in the 2025 survey - he had never fallen below 3rd prior to that. A fresh start with a #3 ranking is about as good a first impression as a new hire could ask for.

These Big 12 programs have a new coach this season. Were these moves upgrades or downgrades?

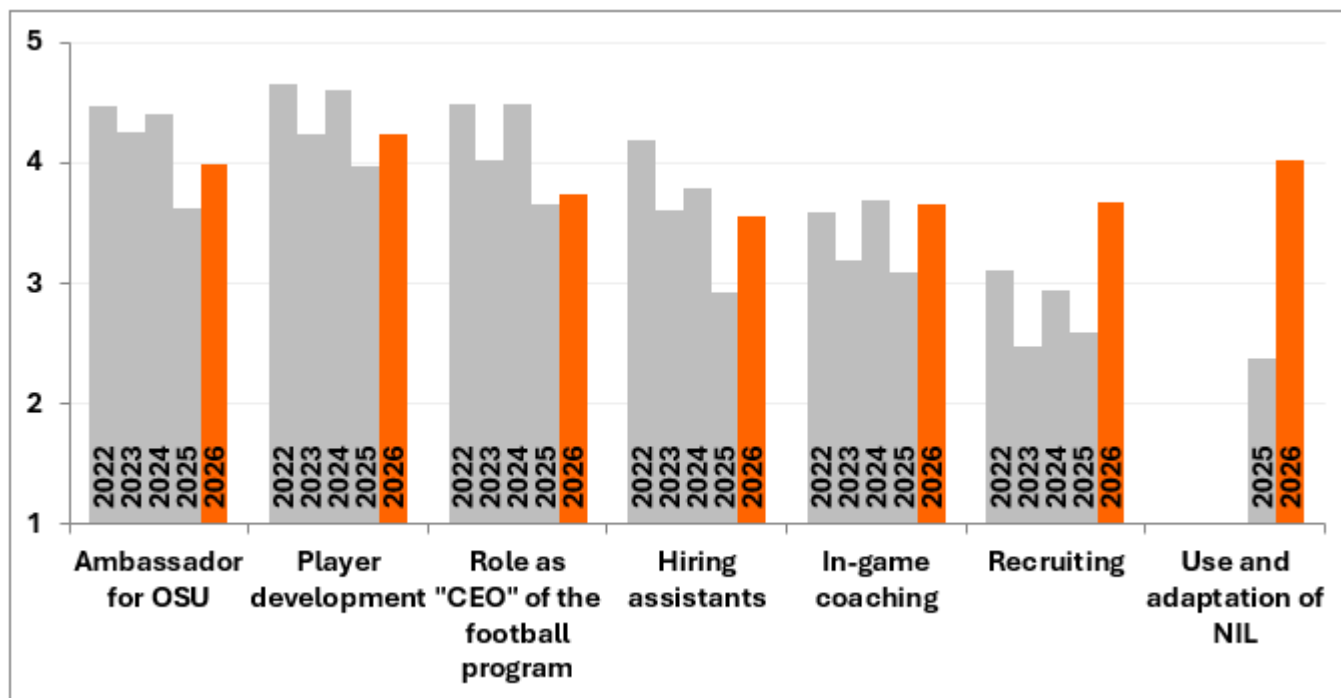
(0 = major downgrade; 5 = major upgrade)



Morris isn't just the best-reviewed new coach in the conference; he's not close. His 4.2 upgrade score dwarfs Kansas State's Klein (3.2), and both Utah's Scalley (2.0) and Iowa State's Rogers (1.8) are actually seen as downgrades, since anything below the 2.5 midpoint indicates a downgrade. Klein's 3.2 puts OSU fans mildly positive on that hire. The other three programs are replacing coaches who left on their own terms or for bigger jobs; OSU is the only one of the four coming off a coaching change born out of genuine desperation. That fans rate the move this positively, and by this much of a margin, says a lot about how much goodwill Morris walked into.

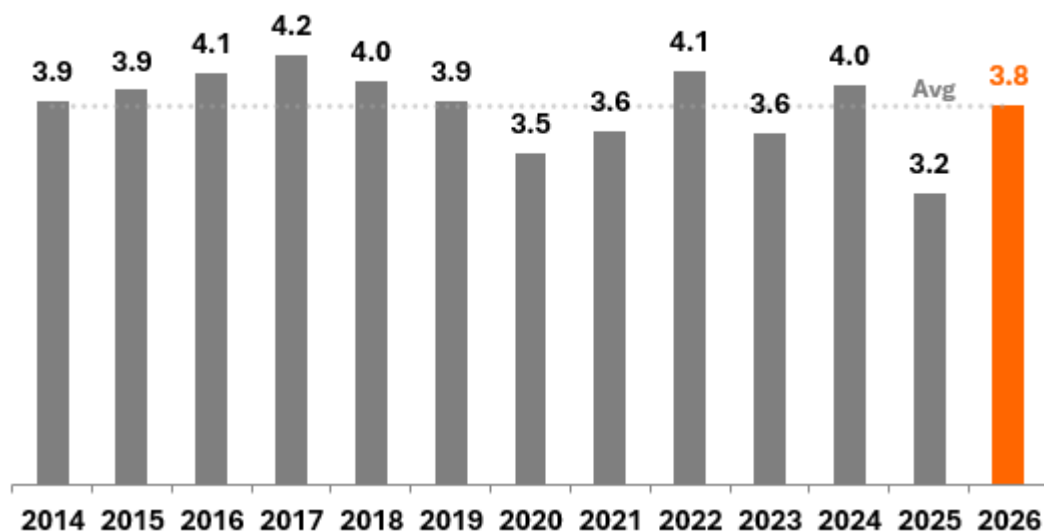
Eric Morris

Rank Eric Morris from 1 - 5 stars in these categories (below, Morris is compared to Gundy's historical rankings):



Morris debuts with strong marks in the traditional categories: player development (4.3, actually his highest score) and "CEO" of the program (3.8) lead the way. He's weaker on the categories that take time to prove out, in-game coaching and recruiting (both 3.7), both respectable for a coach with zero games under his belt in Stillwater. The standout number is NIL: Morris debuts at **4.0**, an instant upgrade and a sharp contrast to where Gundy left off (2.4 in his final year, by far his worst-ever mark in any category).

Here's the average of all categories for each year. Morris opens at **3.8**, right at the 12-year average line and 0.6 points above where Gundy finished in 2025 (3.2, an all-time low). It's not a spectacular debut number by historical standards (several of Gundy's seasons cleared 4.0), but after two years of decline it's exactly the kind of "back to normal" reading you'd want from a fresh start.



Four new questions this year, all aimed at taking the temperature of a fan base entering a coaching change. Together they paint a pretty coherent picture: fans are optimistic about the pieces Morris brought in, realistic about what a first year probably looks like, and willing to extend patience, but not unlimited patience, while they wait to see it play out. Zoom out to the long-term baseline question, though, and the bar rises considerably: 84% of fans expect a program that's winning or at least competing for a Big 12 title every 3-4 years, a much higher standard than "bowl eligible would be nice" applied to 2026 alone.

What is your biggest source of optimism about the Morris era?

- New QB / offensive weapons: 37%
- All-new coaching staff / fresh schemes: 29%
- Simply a fresh start: 25%
- Recruiting energy / momentum: 7%
- All of the above: 2%

What is your biggest concern about the Morris era?

- Too early to tell / no concerns yet: 40%
- Roster overhaul / lack of returning experience: 20%
- Level of competition in the Big 12: 19%
- Unproven head coach / staff at this level: 16%
- Defense: 5%

How much patience do you have for Eric Morris if his first season goes poorly?

- A lot – rebuilding takes time: 41%
- A little – but a bad year 1 would worry me: 40%
- Total patience – in for the long haul: 16%
- None – results need to show up immediately: 3%

What is the minimum outcome you would consider a successful 2026 season?

- Bowl eligible: 65%
- 8 wins: 23%
- Show improvement even without a big win total: 8%
- 10 wins: 2%
- Anything better than 1-11: 2%
- Win the Big 12 Title: 0%

What is the baseline (minimum) level of success you'd expect from OSU football over the next few years?

- Winning a Big 12 title once every 3-4 years: 45%
- Competing for the Big 12 title every 3-4 years: 39%
- Bowl eligible 4 out of every 5 years: 9%

- Competing for a national championship every 10 years: 5%
- Just a stable, competent program – no title expectations: 2%

Approval Ratings

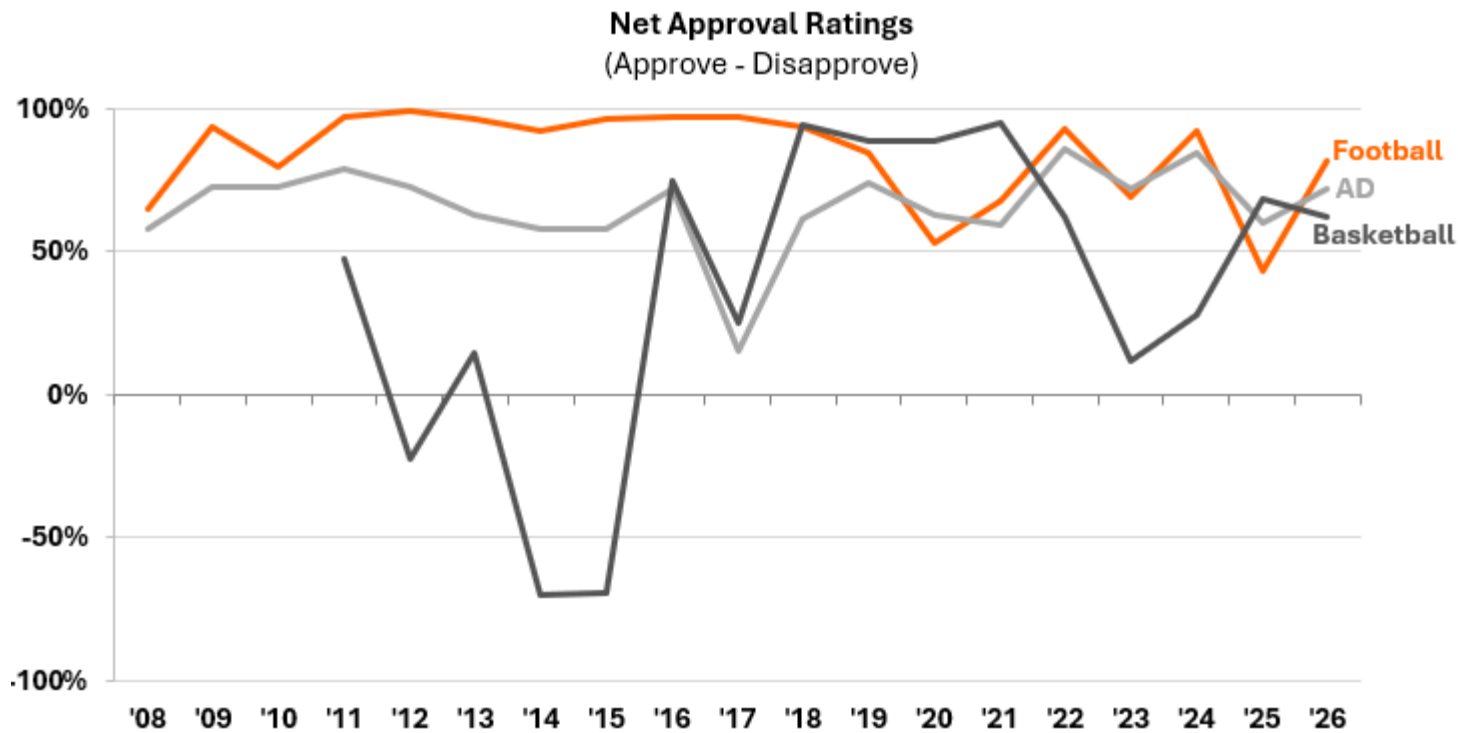
Football	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Approve	74%	94%	84%	98%	99%	97%	94%	98%	98%	98%	96%	89%	68%	78%	95%	78%	95%	62%	82%
Disapprove	9%	0%	4%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	4%	15%	10%	2%	9%	2%	19%	0%
Unsure	17%	6%	13%	2%	1%	2%	5%	2%	1%	1%	2%	8%	17%	11%	3%	12%	4%	19%	18%
	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	MG	EM

AD	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Approve	70%	79%	80%	85%	79%	72%	70%	68%	79%	43%	73%	81%	75%	61%	87%	78%	86%	68%	78%
Disapprove	12%	6%	7%	6%	7%	9%	12%	10%	7%	27%	11%	7%	13%	1%	1%	5%	1%	8%	6%
Unsure	18%	15%	13%	9%	14%	19%	19%	21%	14%	30%	16%	11%	12%	38%	12%	17%	13%	24%	15%
	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH	CW	CW	CW	CW	CW	CW

Basketball	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Approve	-	-	-	59%	16%	41%	8%	7%	75%	30%	95%	90%	91%	96%	70%	40%	28%	70%	69%
Disapprove	-	-	-	11%	38%	27%	78%	76%	0%	5%	1%	2%	2%	1%	8%	28%	0%	2%	7%
Unsure	-	-	-	30%	46%	32%	15%	16%	24%	65%	5%	8%	7%	3%	22%	32%	71%	28%	25%
	-	-	-	TF	TF	TF	TF	TF	BU	MB	MB	MB	MB	MB	MB	MB	SL	SL	SL

President	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Approve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	27%
Disapprove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9%	14%
Unsure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78%	59%
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	JH	JH

Morris opens with an 82% approval rating and, more strikingly, 0% disapproval (hey, he hasn't lost a game yet). Nobody's mad at the new guy yet; the remaining 18% are simply unsure, which is about as clean a honeymoon number as you'll see. Chad Weiberg bounced back to 78% approval (up from 68% in 2025), tracking closely with the overall mood shift around the program. Steve Lutz held roughly steady at 69% (70% last year), a signal that basketball's approval isn't riding the same wave as football's, for better or worse. And Dr. Jim Hess made real progress in year two: approval nearly doubled to 27% (from 13%), while the "unsure" bucket shrank from 78% to 59% as fans get more familiar with him.



Football's net approval (approve minus disapprove) jumps back to 82%, closing most of the gap that opened during Gundy's rocky final two years, when net approval cratered from the mid-90s down into the 40-60% range. Weiberg's net approval sits at 72%, and Lutz sits at 62%; both in a mostly comfortable zone, but neither with the same honeymoon bump football is enjoying. Worth remembering how far basketball has come to even be having this conversation: the Travis Ford era spent two seasons underwater at -70% net approval, a hole this program hasn't been close to since.

Rate these OSU coaches & administrators (1 - 5 scale)

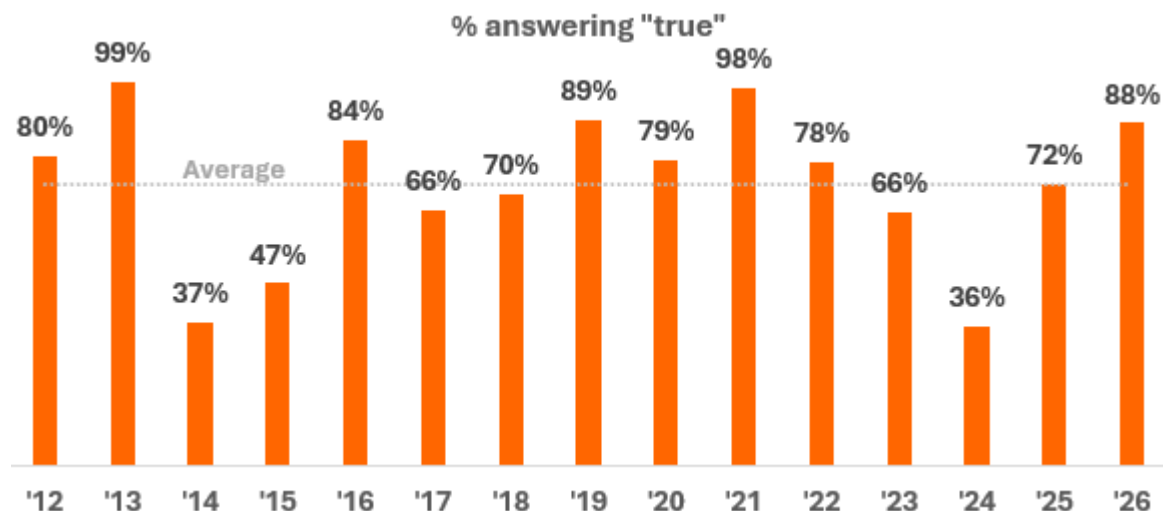
Coach/Admin	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
David Taylor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0	4.7	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	1
Alan Bratton	3.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.4	3.3	4.4	4.4	9	3	3	4	3	6	7	8	2	2
Kenny Gajewski	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3
Jacie Hoyt	-	-	-	-	-	3.5	4.1	3.4	4.1	4.1	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	7	4	4
Eric Morris	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Chad Weiberg	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.2	3.9	4.1	3.7	3.6	5	8	8	7	7	3	4	4	5	6
Sean Brophy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Steve Lutz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	3.6	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	6	8
Skyler Cassity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Josh Holliday	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.1	2.8	3	4	2	2	6	4	6	6	10	10
Jim Hess	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.9	2.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11
Mike Gundy	4.8	4.6	4.2	3.6	3.9	4.5	3.9	4.5	3.6	-	1	2	6	9	8	1	5	2	7	-
Todd Grantham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
Doug Meacham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-
Kayse Shrum	-	-	-	-	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	2	3	-	-
Bryan Nardo	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.4	3.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	10	-	-	-
Kasey Dunn	-	-	-	4.2	3.6	3.5	2.3	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	5	9	9	10	11	-	-
John Smith	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.0	3.6	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	2	5	7	-	-	-
Mike Boynton	3.1	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.6	3.7	3.0	-	-	-	10	6	5	3	1	7	9	-	-	-
Derek Mason	-	-	-	-	-	3.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
Jim Littell	3.6	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.6	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	10	11	10	-	-	-	-	-
Jim Knowles	-	3.5	2.9	3.5	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11	10	4	-	-	-	-	-
Burns Hargis	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mike Holder	2.9	3.8	4.0	3.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	9	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sean Gleeson	-	-	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mike Yurcich	3.6	3.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glenn Spencer	3.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- David Taylor holds the top spot for a second straight year, climbing to **4.8**, tied with Holliday's 2016 mark and Gundy's 2017 mark for the highest rating anyone has ever posted in this question. Alan Bratton must be asking what else he needs to do...
- Alan Bratton stays put at #2 (4.4, unchanged), and Kenny Gajewski and Jacie Hoyt tie for #3 at 4.1 apiece, Hoyt's continuing a steady climb after jumping from 3.4 to 4.1 last year.

- Eric Morris debuts at **4.0**, comfortably ahead of where Gundy finished but shy of Mike's highs. Sean Brophy (3.4) and Skyler Cassity (3.1) also make their first appearances on this list, both reasonable start points for coordinators nobody's seen call a game yet.
- The headline at the bottom of the list: Josh Holliday's slide continues, down to **2.8**, now tied for last place with Dr. Jim Hess. It's a stark fall from the 2014-2020 stretch when Holliday never scored below 4.4. Chad Weiberg (3.6) and Steve Lutz (3.3) both slipped modestly.

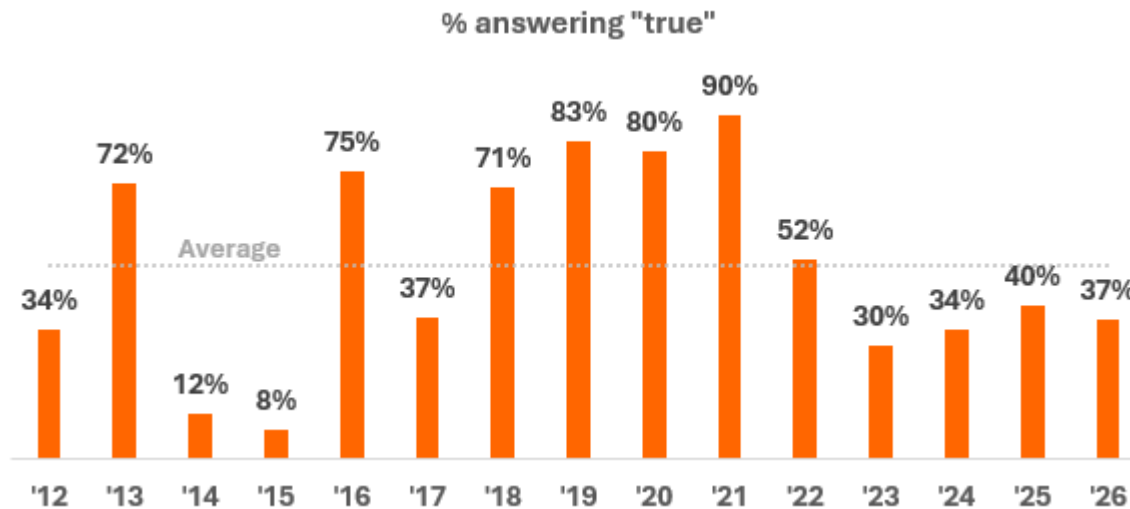
Hoops Section

OSU basketball will make the NCAA Tournament this season:



Confidence in a tournament bid jumped to **88%**, up sharply from 72% last year and well above the long-term average. That's the 2nd-highest mark of the last 5 years, trailing only 2021's 98% (thank you, Cade). Lutz has clearly built some trust with the fan base heading into year 3, a sharp turnaround from the 36% low fans gave the program in 2024.

Ford/Underwood/Boynton/Lutz will lead OSU to a conference championship in the next 5 years.



This one tells a different story: just **37%** of fans believe Lutz will lead OSU to a conference title in the next 5 years, essentially in line with the last few years and nowhere close to the sky-high 80-90% range fans were giving Boynton from 2019-2021. Fans trust Lutz to get teams into the tournament; they're not yet convinced he's building a championship-level program. Worth watching whether that gap closes as his tenure goes on.

Which are you more looking forward to this year: football or basketball?

Looking forward to...	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	'24	'25	'26
Football	52%	86%	96%	56%	91%	57%	44%	31%	30%	79%	66%	87%	52%	69%
Basketball	10%	1%	0%	37%	1%	9%	19%	25%	29%	3%	7%	2%	12%	3%
About the same	38%	13%	4%	7%	8%	34%	37%	44%	42%	19%	27%	12%	36%	28%

Wrestling Section

Which was your favorite highlight of the 2025-26 OSU wrestling season?

- Three true freshmen winning individual national titles: 70%
- Finishing 2nd at the NCAA Championships (best since 2016): 20%
- Winning back-to-back Big 12 titles: 5%
- Setting a new home attendance record at GIA: 4%

New question this year - mostly just to honor the resurgence of the wrestling program. It wasn't close: **70%** of fans picked the three true freshmen winning individual national titles as their favorite highlight of the season.

Which OSU program will win the school's next national championship?

- Wrestling: 43%
- Golf: 33%
- Cross Country: 22%
- Softball: 0.5%
- Football: 0.5%
- Others: 0.9%

Fans are putting their money on wrestling to get there first: 43% picked wrestling as the program most likely to deliver OSU's next national championship, with golf in 2nd and one write-in vote for meat judging contributing to a list of others at 0.9%.

Favorite Players

FAVORITE - OFFENSE

Year	1st		2nd		3rd	
2009	D. Bryant	39%	K. Hunter	25%	Z. Robinson	25%
2010	K. Hunter	63%	B. Weeden	15%	J. Blackmon	4%
2011	B. Weeden	44%	J. Blackmon	26%	J. Cooper	8%
2012	J. Randle	52%	J. Smith	12%	C. Moore	7%
2013	J. Stewart	40%	J. Walsh	14%	K. Staley	11%
2014	D. Roland	22%	T. Hill	17%	J. Walsh	15%
2015	M. Rudolph	37%	J. Washington	17%	J. Walsh	12%
2016	M. Rudolph	44%	J. Washington	37%	M. Ateman	4%
2017	M. Rudolph	39%	J. Hill	23%	J. Washington	22%
2018	J. Hill	67%	D. Stoner	11%	T. Johnson	6%
2019	C. Hubbard	38%	T. Wallace	34%	D. Stoner	13%
2020	T. Wallace	39%	C. Hubbard	28%	D. Stoner	15%
2021	B. Presley	34%	L. Brown	18%	S. Sanders	14%
2022	B. Presley	45%	S. Sanders	22%	J. Bray	6%
2023	B. Presley	37%	O. Gordon	34%	J. Bray	6%
2024	O. Gordon	39%	B. Presley	35%	R. Owens	12%
2025	J. Ford	24%	R. Fields Jr.	24%	Z. Flores	13%
2026	D. Mestemaker	42%	C. Hawkins	37%	C. Barnes	6%

No surprise at the top: **Drew Mestemaker takes 1st with 42%**, fitting for one of the country's best QBs heading into a new era. What's more interesting is 2nd place: C. Hawkins at 37%, just 5 points back.

FAVORITE - DEFENSE

Year	1st		2nd		3rd	
2009	A. Sexton	33%	P. Cox	17%	U. Chinasa	11%
2010	O. Lemon	40%	M. Martin	21%	U. Chinasa	13%
2011	M. Martin	34%	S. Lewis	27%	R. Jones	15%
2012	J. Gilbert	26%	B. Brown	21%	A. Elkins	19%
2013	C. Barnett	31%	S. Lewis	18%	J. Gilbert	14%
2014	J. Castleman	33%	K. Peterson	26%	J. Bean	12%
2015	E. Ogbah	57%	K. Peterson	12%	R. Simmons	6%
2016	J. Sterns	36%	A. Lampkin	11%	C. Whitener	10%
2017	T. Flowers	25%	R. Richards	25%	C. Whitener	15%
2018	C. Bundage	61%	A. Green	7%	D. Daniels	6%
2019	C. Bundage	42%	A. Green	22%	M. Rodriguez	10%
2020	M. Rodriguez	25%	A. Ogbongbemiga	19%	K. Harvell-Peel	17%
2021	M. Rodriguez	37%	T. Sterling	22%	T. Ford	17%
2022	C. Oliver	39%	T. Ford	21%	B. Martin	17%
2023	C. Oliver	41%	K. Daniels	38%	C. Clay	4%
2024	N. Martin	45%	C. Olliver	33%	K. Daniels	9%
2025	C. Epps	15%	C. Smith	13%	M. Charles	8%
2026	J. Johnson	19%	E. Wesloski	18%	L. Fields	16%

Defense remains where consensus goes to die. Jaleel Johnson takes 1st with just **19%**, continuing a run of historically fractured results in this category (15% last year, itself a survey-low at the time). Ethan Wesloski and LaDainian Fields both reach the podium and weren't far off the lead.

Breakout Players

BREAKOUT - OFFENSE

Year	1st	2nd	3rd
2009	J. Blackmon 47%	J. Cooper 13%	J. Mosley 5%
2010	B. Weeden 30%	J. Blackmon 22%	J. Cooper 12%
2011	J. Randle 21%	H. Anyiam 18%	M. Harrison 13%
2012	W. Lunt 25%	C. Moore 20%	J. Stewart 18%
2013	B. Jackson 24%	J. Smith 11%	D. Roland 11%
2014	T. Hill 43%	J. Seales 9%	R. Childs 9%
2015	C. Carson 32%	J. Washington 13%	M. Rudolph 12%
2016	B. Sanders 26%	J. McCleskey 24%	M. Ateman 10%
2017	T. Johnson 42%	J. Hill 13%	M. Ateman 10%
2018	T. Wallace 23%	T. Johnson 20%	C. Hubbard 12%
2019	S. Sanders 24%	C. Hubbard 23%	J. Woods 10%
2020	S. Sanders 34%	B. Johnson 19%	J. Woods 10%
2021	B. Presley 30%	S. Sanders 15%	T. Martin 14%
2022	J. Bray 24%	O. Gordon 16%	B. Presley 7%
2023	O. Gordon 28%	A. Bowman 24%	J. Bray 14%
2024	D. Stribling 32%	T. Shettron 15%	R. Owens 12%
2025	R. Fields Jr. 19%	Z. Flores 15%	H. Hejny 15%
2026	C. Barnes 28%	C. Hawkins 21%	D. Mestemaker 11%

WR Chris Barnes takes the top spot at 28%, a modest plurality in a category that's rarely had a runaway winner. Looking back at this list, OSU fans have a genuinely good track record here: Justin Blackmon (2009), Tyreek Hill (2014), Chris Carson (2016), and Ollie Gordon (2023) all won this exact vote before becoming stars. C. Hawkins picks up 2nd (21%) right behind his 2nd-place finish in the favorite-player question.

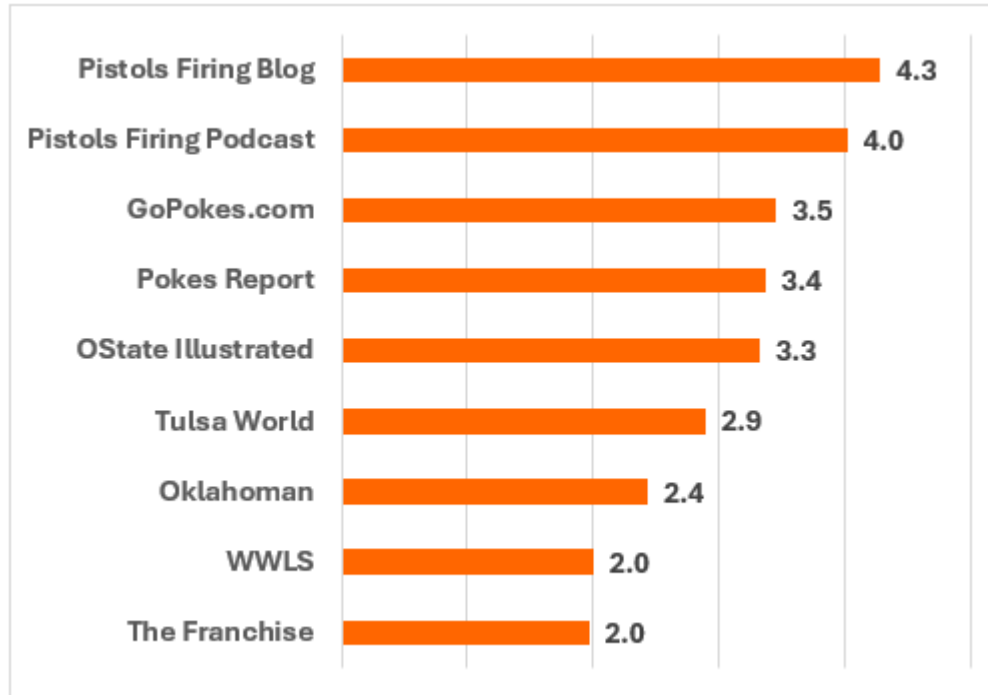
BREAKOUT - DEFENSE

Year	1st		2nd		3rd	
2009	M. Booker	17%	L. Antoine	17%	R. Jones	15%
2010	R. Jones	25%	U. Chinasa	12%	M. Martin	10%
2011	R. Jones	23%	J. Gilbert	17%	A. Elkins	15%
2012	C. Barnett	19%	A. Elkins	16%	J. Gilbert	11%
2013	J. Gilbert	19%	L. Johnson	12%	C. Barnett	12%
2014	J. Bean	18%	K. Peterson	15%	E. Ogbah	9%
2015	J. Burton	24%	J. Bean	11%	A. Lampkin	10%
2016	R. Richards	13%	A. Lampkin	11%	C. Bundage	8%
2017	C. Bundage	23%	R. Richards	14%	A. Green	8%
2018	A. Green	19%	C. Bundage	19%	K. Edison-McGruder	10%
2019	C. Bundage	11%	A. Green	11%	I. Antwine	10%
2020	C. Bundage	16%	T. Ford	16%	A. Ogbongbemiga	9%
2021	T. Ford	12%	T. Sterling	10%	M. Rodriguez	7%
2022	T. Ford	23%	K. Daniels	13%	X. Benson	9%
2023	J. Kirkland	19%	K. Daniels	18%	C. Oliver	10%
2024	K. Daniels	16%	C. Epps (T-2)	8%	K. Black (T-2)	8%
2025	M. Charles	13%	C. Epps	10%	B. McCoy Jr.	8%
2026	J. Johnson	17%	B. Presley	14%	L. Fields	14%

DE Jaleel Johnson leads at just 17%, continuing the theme of this year's defense being a genuine mystery to fans, fitting for a unit adjusting to a new coordinator and a lot of roster turnover. This year's defense simply doesn't have a name fans have rallied around yet.

OSU Coverage

Rate these outlets for how well they provide OSU sports coverage (1 - 5 scale):



Pistols Firing Blog holds its usual spot at the top, rating **4.3**, with the Pistols Firing Podcast right behind at 4.0, the two highest-rated outlets by a clear margin. GoPokes.com (3.5), Pokes Report (3.4), and OState Illustrated (3.3) form a solid middle tier. Traditional media brings up the rear: Tulsa World (2.9), the Oklahoman (2.4), and both WWLS and The Franchise tied at the bottom (2.0 each). The pattern here has been consistent for years: independent OSU-focused outlets consistently outrate the statewide and traditional sports-radio options, and this year is no exception.

Future

How excited are you about the future of these OSU programs? (1 - 5 scale):

Sport	Avg Rating												Rank											
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Wrestling	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.2	3.0	4.2	4.7	4.6	3	4	3	5	5	3	4	7	10	3	1	1
Football	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.5	3.8	4.5	3.4	4.3	1	2	1	1	4	5	5	1	2	1	7	2
Golf	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	3.7	3.3	3.2	4.3	4.1	4	5	5	3	2	4	3	5	5	8	2	3
Women's Basketball	2.9	3.3	2.9	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.0	3.6	3.9	7	8	12	9	12	12	9	10	3	11	5	4
Softball	2.6	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.4	3.8	3.7	11	10	8	7	6	6	2	2	1	2	3	5
Men's Basketball	2.8	4.5	3.7	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	3.8	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.7	9	3	4	2	1	1	1	4	6	7	4	6
Cross Country	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.5	5	7	7	10	9	9	10	9	7	5	6	7
Track	2.9	3.3	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2	2.9	7	8	9	11	10	11	12	12	11	9	8	8
Equestrian	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.9	11	12	11	12	11	10	11	6	8	10	9	8
Baseball	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.3	3.9	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.0	2.8	2	1	2	4	3	2	6	3	4	4	10	10
Tennis	2.7	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.7	3.4	2.8	2.6	10	5	6	8	8	8	8	11	12	6	12	11
Soccer	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.6	6	10	10	6	7	7	7	8	9	12	11	12
Avg, All Sports	3.3	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.5												
Avg, Football & Basketball	3.8	4.6	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.5	3.9	3.6	4.0												

- Football surges back into the top tier: rating jumps from 3.4 to **4.3**, and rank climbs from 7th all the way to 2nd, trailing only wrestling.
- Wrestling holds the #1 spot for a second straight year, even as its own rating ticked down slightly (4.7 to 4.6).
- Golf cools a bit in rank (2nd to 3rd) despite still posting a strong 4.1.
- Women's basketball continues a quiet climb, up to 4th from 11 just two years ago.
- Baseball remains the clear outlier: down to **2.8**, its lowest mark on record and tied for dead last, the third straight year of decline.
- The football/basketball combined average jumps to **4.0**, its best mark since 2022. The all-sports average holds flat at 3.5.

OSU Opening Game Prediction

And finally...OSU fans predict an opening-game score of **OSU 41, @ Tulsa 19**. That 22-point margin is right in line with how fans feel about the game itself (84% win probability from the schedule question).

		Score	
Season	Opening Opponent	Predicted	Actual
2008	@ Washington St.	39-20	39-13
2009	Georgia	-	24-10
2010	Washington St.	38-13	65-17
2011	Louisiana	53-13	61-34
2012	Savannah St.	55-10	84-0
2013	Mississippi St.	40-21	21-3
2014	Florida St.	24-36	31-37
2015	@ Central Mich.	46-14	24-13
2016	SE Louisiana	49-12	61-7
2017	Tulsa	49-22	59-24
2018	Missouri St.	48-14	58-17
2019	@ Oregon St.	42-20	52-36
2020	Tulsa	44-17	16-7
2021	Missouri St.	45-12	23-16
2022	Central Michigan	40-14	58-44
2023	Central Arkansas	42-13	27-13
2024	South Dakota State	36-21	44-20
2025	@ Oregon (game 2)	18-37	3-69
2026	@ Tulsa	41-19	

The End – Go Pokes!

As always, thanks for being a part of this tradition. Here's to a fresh start, a new era, and a Cowboy season worth believing in again.

This year's numbers tell the story of a fan base that got its hope back. A year ago, we were bracing for the worst; this year, interest levels hit an all-time high, Morris opened with zero disapproval, and the "fully unhinged" fans among us are predicting nearly a win more than they did in 2025.

It's not a story of wild expectations, though: fans set the bar for success at bowl eligibility, not a title, and most are extending patience rather than demanding results. Call it cautious optimism. Cowboy fans went through a genuinely rough stretch and showed up anyway, which is exactly why this survey is worth doing every year, and why I'm always grateful for your voice in it.

-Dave ([@okc_dave](#))

Curious about previous surveys?

2008: <http://goo.gl/T4c66l>

2009: <http://goo.gl/OE8NZo>

2010: <http://goo.gl/XJJwsM>

2011: <http://goo.gl/aV9RC0>

2012: <http://goo.gl/4X8NT0>

2013: <http://goo.gl/MLSmNm>

2014: <https://goo.gl/hWjW1j>

2015: <https://goo.gl/dVaoEe>

2016: <https://goo.gl/bCc2R0>

2017: <https://goo.gl/PqVMNQ>

2018: <https://rb.gy/avyrkq>

2019: <https://rb.gy/xiaypw>

2020: <https://rb.gy/aurlbb>

2021: [2021 OSU Fan Survey](#)

2022: [2022 OSU Fan Survey](#)

2023: [2023 OSU Fan Survey](#)

2024: [2024 OSU Fan Survey](#)

2025: [2025 OSU Fan Survey](#)