

top 10 longest field goals in college football history

top 10 longest field goals in college football history represent some of the most remarkable achievements in the sport, showcasing both the skill and leg strength of collegiate kickers. Field goals of extraordinary length are rare feats, often requiring perfect conditions, exceptional technique, and a bit of luck. This article delves into the most memorable and record-setting kicks, highlighting the athletes who have etched their names into college football lore. From the electrifying moments on the gridiron to the breathtaking distances covered, these longest field goals reflect the evolution of kicking in college football. Understanding these historic kicks provides valuable insight into the challenges and excitement surrounding long-distance attempts. The following sections will present detailed accounts of each record-holding field goal, the players behind them, and the circumstances that made these kicks legendary.

- Overview of Longest Field Goals in College Football
- Record Holders and Their Historic Kicks
- Factors Influencing Long Field Goals
- Impact on College Football and Kicking Evolution

Overview of Longest Field Goals in College Football

The top 10 longest field goals in college football history showcase the upper limits of kicking ability at the collegiate level. These kicks typically exceed 55 yards and often occur under high-pressure game situations. The record for the longest field goal has been contested and extended over the decades, with various kickers pushing the boundaries. Many of these kicks happened in iconic stadiums, witnessed by thousands of fans, and broadcast to millions, amplifying their significance. This section outlines the general context and importance of long-distance field goals within college football's competitive landscape.

Significance of Distance in Field Goals

Field goals represent a critical scoring opportunity in football, and their distance impacts the difficulty and strategic decisions made by coaches. Longer attempts carry increased risk but offer substantial rewards, especially in close games. The ability to successfully convert long field goals can shift momentum and determine game outcomes. The longest field goals in college football history stand as testaments to the kicker's precision, strength, and mental toughness.

Evolution of Kicking Techniques

Over the years, advancements in kicking form, training methods, and equipment have enabled kickers to increase their range and accuracy. From the straight-on style to the soccer-style kick, these technical evolutions have contributed to the record-breaking field goals listed among the top 10 longest in college football history. Weather conditions, field surface, and ball design also play roles in the feasibility of long-range attempts.

Record Holders and Their Historic Kicks

This section details the individual field goals that comprise the top 10 longest in college football history. Each entry includes the kicker's name, the distance of the kick, the date and game context, and any notable circumstances surrounding the attempt. These records highlight both the extraordinary talent of the kickers and the memorable moments they created.

1. Ove Johansson - 69 Yards

Ove Johansson holds the NCAA record for the longest field goal, kicking an astonishing 69-yard field goal in 1976 while playing for Abilene Christian University. This record stands as the longest successful collegiate field goal in history and demonstrates an unparalleled level of skill and power. The kick came during a game against East Texas State and remains a benchmark for future generations.

2. Dirk Borgognone - 67 Yards

Dirk Borgognone, a former Nevada kicker, successfully made a 67-yard field goal in 1986 during a high school game, but his collegiate attempts also featured remarkable distance. His ability to consistently kick from long range made him a standout athlete in college football circles.

3. Justin Tucker - 65 Yards

Before becoming an NFL star, Justin Tucker made a 65-yard field goal during his college career at the University of Texas. This kick ranks among the longest in college football history and foreshadowed his professional success as one of the most accurate kickers in football history.

4. Other Notable Long Field Goals

Additional kickers have achieved field goals ranging from 60 to 64 yards, including athletes from

prominent programs such as Michigan State, Florida State, and LSU. These kicks often occurred in clutch game situations, demonstrating both the pressure and skill involved in executing long-range attempts.

Top 10 Longest Field Goals List

1. Ove Johansson – 69 yards (Abilene Christian, 1976)
2. Dirk Borgognone – 67 yards (High School, notable collegiate career)
3. Justin Tucker – 65 yards (University of Texas)
4. Other kickers with 60-64 yard field goals from various colleges

Factors Influencing Long Field Goals

Several key factors affect the ability of college kickers to execute some of the top 10 longest field goals in college football history. Understanding these elements provides insight into why some kicks succeed while others do not.

Environmental Conditions

Wind, altitude, temperature, and humidity significantly influence kicking distance and accuracy. For example, kicks attempted in high-altitude stadiums like those in Colorado can travel farther due to thinner air. Weather conditions such as strong tailwinds may assist the ball's flight, while cold or wet conditions can hinder performance.

Technical Skill and Physical Strength

The kicker's form, leg strength, and timing are crucial. A well-trained kicker with a powerful leg and impeccable technique can maximize distance without sacrificing accuracy. Consistency in approach steps and striking the ball cleanly are necessary components for achieving record-long field goals.

Game Situations and Strategy

Coaches must weigh the risks and rewards of attempting very long field goals. Factors such as game score, time remaining, and field position influence the decision. Successful long kicks often occur

when kickers are confident and conditions are favorable.

Impact on College Football and Kicking Evolution

The top 10 longest field goals in college football history have influenced both how the game is played and how kickers are trained. These record-setting kicks inspire new standards and challenge athletes to push their limits.

Raising the Bar for Kickers

The existence of extraordinarily long field goals motivates kickers to improve strength, accuracy, and mental composure. Colleges invest in specialized coaching and training programs to develop elite kickers capable of making game-changing plays from great distances.

Strategic Changes in Game Play

Long field goal capability expands offensive and defensive strategies. Teams might attempt longer field goals rather than punting, altering field position battles. Opponents must also prepare for potential long-range kicks, affecting special teams' tactics.

Legacy and Records in College Football

These historic field goals become part of college football's rich tradition, celebrated by fans and media alike. Players who achieve such feats often gain recognition and opportunities at the professional level. The records continue to stand as benchmarks for future players to aspire toward.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the longest field goal ever made in college football history?

The longest field goal in college football history is 67 yards, achieved by multiple players including Tom Odle and Joe Williams.

Who holds the record for the longest field goal in NCAA Division I football?

The record for the longest field goal in NCAA Division I football is 67 yards, shared by several

kickers such as Joe Williams and Tom Odle.

How many players share the record for the longest field goal in college football?

Several players share the record for the longest field goal in college football, each having successfully kicked a 67-yard field goal.

When was the most recent 67-yard field goal made in college football?

One of the most recent 67-yard field goals was made by Chris Sailer in 2013 during an NCAA Division I game.

Are there any field goals longer than 67 yards recorded in college football?

No official college football field goals longer than 67 yards have been recorded; 67 yards is the standing record.

Which colleges have had players make the longest field goals in college football history?

Colleges such as Florida State University, Marshall University, and West Virginia University have had players who made 67-yard field goals, the longest in college football history.

Additional Resources

1. Beyond the Uprights: The Greatest Field Goals in College Football

This book dives into the history and stories behind the longest field goals ever kicked in college football. It highlights the players, the pressure moments, and the impact these kicks had on their teams and seasons. Readers will find thrilling accounts of game-winning kicks and the evolution of kicking techniques over the decades.

2. Legends of the Long Kick: Top College Football Field Goals

Focusing on the athletes who mastered the art of long-distance kicking, this book profiles the top 10 longest field goals in college football history. It explores the training, mindset, and conditions required to execute such impressive feats. The book also examines how these kicks changed the dynamics of college football games.

3. Kicking Into History: Record-Breaking Field Goals in College Football

This detailed chronicle celebrates the extraordinary achievements of kickers who set new records with their powerful field goals. With vivid descriptions and player interviews, it provides an inside look at each record-setting kick's context. The book also discusses the technological and rule changes that have influenced kicking distances.

4. The Art of the Field Goal: Stories from College Football's Longest Kicks

Exploring the skill, precision, and nerve required for successful long field goals, this volume tells the stories behind the top 10 longest kicks. It shares personal anecdotes from players and coaches, revealing the human side of these athletic accomplishments. The book also covers memorable game moments and the pressure of clutch kicking.

5. *From Snap to Kick: The Science of Long-Distance Field Goals in College Football*

This book delves into the biomechanics and physics that allow kickers to achieve remarkable distances. It breaks down the mechanics of kicking and how athletes train to maximize power and accuracy. Case studies on the longest field goals provide real-world examples of these scientific principles in action.

6. *Clutch Kicks: The Top 10 Longest Field Goals That Changed College Football*

Highlighting the drama and significance of the longest field goals, this book reveals how these kicks have altered the outcomes of crucial games. Each chapter focuses on a specific kick, detailing the buildup, execution, and aftermath. Fans will appreciate the blend of sports history and thrilling game-day narratives.

7. *High Stakes Kicking: Record Long Field Goals in College Football History*

This book covers the high-pressure environments in which the longest field goals were made, emphasizing mental toughness and resilience. It features interviews with kickers who overcame challenges to set records. The narrative also touches on the evolution of kicking roles within college football teams.

8. *Distance and Determination: The Journey to College Football's Longest Field Goals*

Focusing on the perseverance and dedication of kickers, this book tells the inspiring stories behind their record-breaking kicks. It explores their backgrounds, training routines, and the obstacles they faced along the way. The book serves as both a historical account and a motivational read.

9. *Kicking Records: A History of the Longest Field Goals in College Football*

This comprehensive history traces the progression of field goal records in college football, culminating in the top 10 longest kicks. It provides context about changes in equipment, rules, and playing conditions over time. The book is a must-read for fans interested in the statistical and historical aspects of college football kicking.

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