

# Illinois Fighting Illini Football

By Alexis Watson

The Illinois football team finished the 2019 football season with a 6-6 record. Illinois plays in the Big Ten conference. Four of the wins came against Big Ten teams. They finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Big Ten – West division. Their best win this year was against Wisconsin who was ranked number 6 in the country. Since Illinois won 6 games, they are able to go to a bowl game.

There are a few star players on the team. Brandon Peters, Quarterback, had a good season throwing for 1,611 yards. Running backs Reggie Corbin and Dre Brown together had almost 1200 yards rushing. Josh Imatorbhebhe was the best receiver with 9 touchdowns. Five players earned All Big Ten Offense honors. Reggie Corbin, Alex Palczewski, Kendrick Green, Josh Imatorbhebhe and Doug Kramer. There are a total of 14 players recognized. Punter Blake Hayes was named Punter of the Year.

Head Coach Lovie Smith is in his fourth season at Illinois. Lovie's overall record is 15-33. He is building a program after many losing seasons. "When I came here, I knew what type of people I'd be involved with," Smith said. "It's an honest group. We're not there yet. We've won six games. We're trending in the right direction, but that's not what we came here for, to win six football games. We're still building our program and we're right on track. I'm so appreciative of the people, administration, the fans here who have been so patient who knew it took a little bit more." This year, the senior class will be going to their first bowl game.