

= 1990 Toledo Rockets football team =

The 1990 Toledo Rockets football team represented the University of Toledo during the 1990 NCAA Division I @-@ A football season . The Rockets were led by first @-@ year head coach Nick Saban , and competed as a member of the Mid @-@ American Conference ( MAC ) . They finished the season with a record of nine wins and two losses ( 9 ? 2 , 7 ? 1 in MAC play ) and as MAC co ? champions with Central Michigan .

The 1990 Rockets squad opened the season with six consecutive victories over Miami ( OH ) , Northern Illinois , Ball State , Ohio , Eastern Michigan and Bowling Green . At the time of the matchup , their meeting against Central Michigan served as a de facto MAC conference championship game . Although Toledo lost 13 ? 12 , victories over Kent State and Western Michigan coupled with a Central Michigan loss to Ball State gave the Rockets a share of the MAC championship . Toledo then concluded the season with a loss to Navy and a victory over Arkansas State .

In February 1991 , Nick Saban resigned as head coach of the Rockets after only one season to become defensive coordinator of the National Football League 's Cleveland Browns .

= = Before the season = =

Toledo finished their 1989 season with a record of six wins and five losses ( 6 ? 5 , 6 ? 2 in MAC play ) and tied for second place in the final conference standings . Although the Rockets finished the season with a winning record , on November 22 , 1989 , head coach Dan Simrell was fired by Toledo athletic director Al Bohl . By mid @-@ December , the finalists were narrowed to Pete Cordelli ( then the quarterback coach at Notre Dame ) and Nick Saban ( then the secondary coach for the Houston Oilers ) . On December 22 , 1989 , Bohl announced the Saban had been hired to replace Simrell as head coach at Toledo . The position was Saban 's first as a head coach .

= = Schedule = =

= = Game notes = =

= = = Miami = = =

To open the 1990 season , Toledo traveled to Oxford to play the Miami Redskins . In what was both the head coaching debut for Saban and the Redskins ' Randy Walker , the Rockets won 20 ? 14 . Toledo scored first on a one @-@ yard Troy Parker run early in the first quarter for a 7 ? 0 lead . However , Miami responded on the kickoff that followed when Milt Stegall returned it 92 @-@ yards for the score to tie the game at 7 ? 7 . Later in the first , Jeff Lamb recovered a Jim Clement fumble at the Redskins 12 @-@ yard line . Three plays later , Parker scored his second one @-@ yard touchdown to give Toledo a 14 ? 7 lead . Early in the second quarter , Dave Walkosky intercepted a Clement pass to give the Rockets possession at their 33 @-@ yard line . Nine plays later , Parker scored his third touchdown of the afternoon , this time from two @-@ yards out . Rusty Hanna then had his extra point attempt blocked and Toledo led 20 ? 7 at halftime .

In the third quarter , a snap went over the head of punter Brian Borders to give Miami possession at the Toledo 21 @-@ yard line . However , a goal line stand by the Rockets ' defense kept the Redskins out of the endzone on a failed fourth @-@ and @-@ one running play . In the fourth quarter , Miami scored the final points of the game on a five @-@ yard Terry Carter touchdown run to make the final score 20 ? 14 . The victory improved Toledo 's all @-@ time record against Miami to 16 ? 22 .

= = = Northern Illinois = = =

In their first home game of the 1990 season , Toledo defeated the Northern Illinois Huskies 23 ? 14 in what was the first game played since the completion of an \$ 18 million ( \$ 32 @.@ 6 million in 2016 dollars ) renovation at the Glass Bowl . Toledo scored first on an eight @-@ yard run by Troy Parker to take an early 7 ? 0 lead . The Huskies responded with a 15 @-@ yard run by Stacey Robinson to tie the game at 7 ? 7 at the end of the first quarter . In the second quarter , Rusty Hanna then retook the lead for Toledo with his 23 @-@ yard field goal before Northern Illinois responded with a 12 @-@ yard Robinson touchdown pass to Ray Patterson for a 14 ? 10 halftime lead for the Huskies .

In the third quarter , the Rockets retook the lead after Kevin Meger scored on a 26 @-@ yard run , and after a failed extra point attempt Toledo led 16 ? 14 . Parker then scored the final points of the game in the fourth with his two @-@ yard touchdown run for the 23 ? 14 win . Parker set a new school record with his 40 running attempts and rushed for 205 yards on the afternoon . For his performance , Parker was named the Mid @-@ American Conference Offensive Player of the Week . The victory improved Toledo 's all @-@ time record against Northern Illinois to 16 ? 6 .

= = = Ball State = = =

In week three , Toledo defeated the Ball State Cardinals 28 ? 16 at Scheumann Stadium in Muncie . After a scoreless first quarter , Toledo took a 7 ? 0 halftime lead after Kevin Meger scored on a two @-@ yard run to complete a 75 @-@ yard drive . The Rockets then extended their lead to 14 ? 0 early in the third quarter on a two @-@ yard Troy Parker run before the Cardinals cut the lead to 14 ? 3 on a 47 @-@ yard Kenny Stucker field goal late in the quarter .

In the fourth quarter , each team traded a pair of touchdowns with Toledo winning the game 28 ? 16 . Toledo scored on touchdown runs of two @-@ yards by Parker and ten @-@ yards by Meger . Ball State scored touchdowns on a 19 @-@ yard Corey Croom run and on a 22 @-@ yard Scott Hammersley pass to Travis Moore . The victory improved Toledo 's all @-@ time record against Ball State to 8 ? 8 .

= = = Ohio = = =

For the third time in as many road games the Rockets were victorious , and this time Toledo defeated the Ohio Bobcats 27 ? 20 at Peden Stadium in Athens . After a scoreless first quarter , each team connected on a field goal before Troy Parker scored the first touchdown of the game on an 11 @-@ yard run for a 10 ? 3 Toledo lead . Each team again traded field goals later in the quarter to make the halftime score 13 ? 6 .

In the third quarter , Parker scored on a nine @-@ yard run for Toledo and Ohio responded with a one @-@ yard touchdown run for a 20 ? 13 Rockets lead at the start of the fourth quarter . In the fourth , the Bobcats tied the game up at 20 ? 20 when Anthony Thornton threw a 29 @-@ yard touchdown pass to Courtney Burton . Toledo then scored the game @-@ winning touchdown with only 0 : 17 remaining in the game when Parker scored on a one @-@ yard run to complete a 68 @-@ yard , 15 play drive . The victory improved Toledo 's all @-@ time record against Ohio to 21 ? 19 ? 1 .

= = = Eastern Michigan = = =

With Troy Parker seeing limited action due to an injury , Neil Trotter rushed for 145 yards and Corey Ivey for 96 as Toledo defeated the Eastern Michigan Hurons 37 ? 23 . The Rockets took a 10 ? 0 lead in the first quarter on an eight @-@ yard Ivey touchdown run and 37 @-@ yard Rusty Hanna field goal . In the second , both teams scored ten points to give Toledo a 20 ? 10 halftime lead . The Hurons scored on an 85 @-@ yard Craig Thompson punt return and a 36 @-@ yard Jim Langeloh field goal ; the Rockets scored on a 32 @-@ yard Hanna field goal and three @-@ yard Kevin Meger touchdown run .

In the third , Eastern Michigan cut the lead to 20 ? 17 after Cameron Moss scored on a 48 @-@ yard touchdown run . Toledo responded with 17 consecutive , fourth quarter points to win the game . After a 37 @-@ yard Hanna field goal , touchdowns were scored on a 28 @-@ yard Meger pass to Marcus Goodwin and on a four @-@ yard Parker run . The Hurons scored again late in the game on an 11 @-@ yard Shane Jackson touchdown pass to Chris Nyenhuis to make the final score 37 ? 23 . The victory improved Toledo 's all @-@ time record against Eastern Michigan to 11 ? 7 .

= = = Bowling Green = = =

Before what was the second largest crowd to witness a game at the Glass Bowl , Toledo defeated the Bowling Green Falcons 19 ? 13 to win the Peace Pipe . After a Rusty Hanna field goal gave the Rockets an early 3 ? 0 lead , a pair of Erik White touchdown passes gave the Falcons a 13 ? 3 halftime lead . However , the Toledo defense shutout the Bowling Green offense in the second half , and the Rockets came back to win 19 ? 13 . Points were scored in the third on a seven @-@ yard touchdown run by Kevin Meger and a one @-@ yard Troy Parker touchdown run . Hanna added a field goal in the fourth . The victory improved Toledo 's all @-@ time record against Bowling Green to 22 ? 29 ? 4 .

= = = Central Michigan = = =

In the hype that led to their game against the Central Michigan Chippewas , the press billed the contest as the de facto MAC championship game . At Mount Pleasant , the Rockets failed to score a touchdown and suffered their first loss of the season in a 13 ? 12 loss . The Rockets scored first on a 28 @-@ yard Rusty Hanna field goal , but the Chippewas responded with a 53 @-@ yard Jeff Bender touchdown pass to Ken Ealy to take a 7 ? 3 lead at the end of the first quarter . A 46 @-@ yard Hanna field goal in the second cut the Central lead to 7 ? 6 at halftime .

In the third quarter , Toledo briefly retook the lead after Hanna connected on field goals of 41 and 26 yards . However , the Chippewas scored the game @-@ winning touchdown later in the quarter when Bender threw a 38 @-@ yard touchdown pass to Bob Kench for the 13 ? 12 victory . For his six @-@ tackle performance , Mark Rhea was named the Mid @-@ American Conference Defensive Player of the Week . The loss brought Toledo 's all @-@ time record against Central Michigan to 7 ? 10 ? 2 .

= = = Kent State = = =

Against head coach Nick Saban 's alma mater , the Rockets defeated the Kent State Golden Flashes 28 ? 14 , one week after their first loss of the season . Toledo scored first on a one @-@ yard Troy Parker touchdown run for a 7 ? 0 lead . The Flashes responded with a 14 @-@ yard Joe Dalpra touchdown pass to tie the game at 7 ? 7 at the end of the first . After the Rockets regained the lead on a 35 @-@ yard Rusty Hanna field goal , Kent took a 14 ? 10 halftime lead on a six @-@ yard Dalpra touchdown run .

A second , 35 @-@ yard field goal cut the Kent State lead to 14 ? 13 , and a pair of fourth @-@ quarter touchdowns sealed the victory for Toledo . Touchdowns were scored by Neil Trotter on a 38 @-@ yard run and on a three @-@ yard pass from Kevin Meger to Dan Grossman for the 28 ? 14 win . The victory improved Toledo 's all @-@ time record against Kent State to 18 ? 19 .

= = = Western Michigan = = =

In their final conference game of the season , Toledo defeated the Western Michigan Broncos 37 ? 9 to secure the conference co @-@ championship with Central Michigan . Toledo led 7 ? 6 at halftime after Kevin Meger threw a 33 @-@ yard touchdown pass to Rickey Isaiah for the Rockets , and Dan Boggan scored for the Broncos on a one @-@ yard touchdown run .

Toledo then scored three third @-@ quarter touchdowns to take a 28 ? 6 lead . Touchdowns were

scored on a three @-@ yard Meger pass to Jerry Evans , a 14 @-@ yard Meger run , and on a 67 @-@ yard Meger pass to Romauldo Brown . The Broncos then scored their final points of the game on a 31 @-@ yard Jay Barresi field goal to make the score 28 ? 9 at the start of the fourth quarter . In the fourth , Damon Nelson scored on a one @-@ yard touchdown run and Western snapped a punt out of the end zone for a safety and a 37 ? 9 Toledo win . The victory improved Toledo 's all @-@ time record against Western Michigan to 23 ? 22 .

= = = Navy = = =

In what was the Rockets ' first all @-@ time meeting against Navy , 14 unanswered points in the fourth quarter gave the Midshipmen the 14 ? 10 win at the Glass Bowl . Toledo led 10 ? 0 as they entered the fourth quarter with points scored on a 34 @-@ yard Hanna field goal in the first and on a six @-@ yard David Andrews touchdown run in the third . Navy came back to win the game in the fourth on a pair of Jason Pace touchdowns . The first came on a nine @-@ yard run and the second on a five @-@ yard reception from Alton Grizzard . The loss effectively resulted in the Rockets failing to get a bowl bid as Central Michigan got the automatic MAC bid to the California Bowl due to having the tiebreaker over Toledo .

= = = Arkansas State = = =

In the final game of the season , Toledo defeated the Arkansas State Indians 43 ? 28 at the Glass Bowl . The Indians scored first on a 24 @-@ yard Troy Mabone touchdown run followed by a one @-@ yard Neil Trotter touchdown run for a 7 ? 7 tie at the end of the first . In the second quarter Trotter scored on a two @-@ yard run and Mabone on a one @-@ yard run before a 38 @-@ yard Kevin Meger touchdown pass to Rickey Isaiah and 33 @-@ yard Rusty Hanna field goal gave the Rockets a 24 ? 14 halftime lead .

In the third , Aubrey Miller recovered a Toledo fumble in the endzone for a touchdown and cut the Rockets lead to 24 ? 21 . Each team then traded touchdowns with Toledo scoring on a 27 @-@ yard Pat Johnson run and Arkansas State on a one @-@ yard Roy Johnson run to make the score 31 ? 28 at the start of the fourth . In the fourth , Toledo scored 12 unanswered points for the win . Damon Nelson scored on a four @-@ yard touchdown run and Hanna connected on field goals of 33 and 41 yards in the 43 ? 28 win . The nine wins were the most won by a Toledo squad since the 1983 season .

= = Saban resignation = =

Nick Saban resigned as Toledo 's head coach on February 13 , 1991 , after one season to become defensive coordinator of the National Football League 's Cleveland Browns under Bill Belichick . As defensive coordinator for the New York Giants , Belichick had to postpone assembling his new coaching staff until after Super Bowl XXV . Therefore , Saban 's resignation wasn 't announced until well after the season had ended . Additionally , Saban wanted any potential move to occur after February 6 , National Signing Day for recruits .