



# ARKANSAS

FOOTBALL



## PORTLAND STATE vs ARKANSAS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31 | FAYETTEVILLE, AR

### PORTLAND STATE HEAD COACH BRUCE BARNUM QUOTES

#### *Opening Statement*

"Their defense whooped us. We had a plan but they (Arkansas) did a hell of a job on defense. We came at them with option routes and had our guys off the ball. My fear was we couldn't protect with their front seven, so I wanted to throw quick. They sat on our routes and did a hell of a job. Upfront, they got to us. We don't see defenses like that. That was my fear. I tried to adjust to it and it didn't work. It was a frustrating first half. They played more zone than I thought they would. We had to make some adjustments at halftime.

"I'm proud of my defense. The yards are there, but the points aren't. We buckled up in the red zone and forced them to kick. You don't win games kicking field goals."

#### *On pressuring Arkansas' offense...*

"We thought their strength was the run game, so we brought some run blitzes. We had some plans for the boot. They dropped some passes. We tried to cover them and they just dropped them. Our defense is a fun defense. When you can defend, it's a fun defense to run."

#### *On keeping the game close at the end...*

"My coaches and my team believe we can beat anybody. I'm not naïve but I'm not going to throw in the towel against anybody."

#### *On his message to the team after the game...*

"Don't be satisfied. They played well. Did we humble Arkansas? No we didn't, but the score said we did. But you look at that game and their defense; they got some cats on defense."





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### PORTLAND STATE PLAYER QUOTES

#### **Quarterback Ben Hicks**

##### **Opening Statement**

"First of all, it's a great day to be a Razorback. Man, what a difference a year makes and the weather and guys knowing what we expect on gameday. I thought that was good. I want to thank our fans for coming out. I know they had a lot of festivities before. I appreciate our administration putting on all the events today at HogFest. That was really unique. I was able to spend a little bit of time over there and speak to the crowd, I thought that was neat. And our fans that showed up, our former players that have been a part of the last couple of days with us, I really want to thank them. It's always special to bring former players back in. Our recruits, we had a lot of recruits on campus, and to see the environment today, seeing our fans, and just enjoying all the activities going on campus makes it a special day. The goal of spring was not to be ready for fall. The goal of spring is to get this football team ready to go for summer, and then summer is to get them transitioned into that fourth quarter and into fall camp. So we've got a long way to go, but again as I've said 'what a difference a year makes.'"

##### **On the Trey Knox TD from Ben Hicks...**

"When Ben sat in the pocket and delivered to Trey Knox, I thought it was a great catch. It was defended very well. Great catch and to see him with the ball in his hands is definitely a difference maker. But again, we've seen that. That's been consistent all spring and that's probably what's been impressive about Trey. A lot of times, freshmen get in there and they hit a wall and Trey has really worked hard to get through that and obviously we saw a well-executed play."

#### **Quarterback Ben Hicks**

##### **On Devwah Whaley and his playing time today...**

"I thought he had been limited the majority of spring. [He had] really just came back and done some drill work and 11-on-11 the last couple of practices just a little bit. He felt good and ready to go and he needed the work. He needed as much as he could've gotten today. This was about having a good workout. I mean I know it's a spring game, but we had to get good execution, good workout out of this thing. This was the last full padded live practice that we're going to have until the fall. So, he needed everything he could get today. It was good to see him out there... he missed a few runs but he made some. As the scrimmage went on I thought he got better."

##### **On the importance of getting freshmen playing time...**

"Well first of all, yes. I believe these young men who have stepped on campus here, depends on what type of summer they have, but we're anticipating them being ready to go for the fall... Eric Gregory made a huge sack right there towards the end against Dalton Wagner. That was good to see from Eric's standpoint. Devin Bush responded. Devin's been consistent all spring. Greg Brooks is another one who's been consistent, but I've been very pleased. Mataio Soli is a guy who is much like Trey. He's come in and gained 22 pounds since he's been here and has made the best of the amount of reps that he's gotten this spring... and I think if you asked these guys now they would say they are excited they got here early."

#### **Quarterback Ben Hicks**

##### **On Noah Gatlin & Deon Stewart and the game plan today...**

"I think both of those guys have improved. Again, I think this is a much-improved football team from where we started spring until where we are right now. And that's what we asked. We're better and that's what we wanted. We wanted to focus on our fundamentals and limit a lot of the install. We were simple today, which is by design. But, we have to execute the simple. We have to do simple better and that's been my challenge to our staff. Both of those guys (Noah and Deon) have done a good job and you know, I think that Deon has taken on a leadership role in that wide receiver room and that's good to see as well."

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