



28

# ARKANSAS

VS MISSISSIPPI STATE



31

NOVEMBER 6, 2021

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM

## GAME NOTES

- » QB KJ Jefferson completed 19-of-23 passes for 191 yards and a touchdown. He has tossed 16 TDs to just five interceptions this season. He threw for over 190+ yards for the sixth time this season.
- » WR Treylon Burks recorded six catches for 82 yards and a touchdown and also ran three times for 39 yards. His 14-yard TD catch in the fourth quarter was his eighth of the season, and he found the end zone for the fourth straight game. Burks has recorded six receiving TDs and one rushing TD in the last four games. His eight touchdown receptions this year are tied for fifth-most in a single-season in school history with Keon Hatcher (2016), Derek Russell (1990) and Chuck Dicus (1968). Burks has accrued 2,094 career receiving yards, the eighth-most in program history.
- » TE Trey Knox logged a season-high four catches for 26 yards.
- » RB Dominique Johnson set career-highs of 107 yards, two rushing touchdowns and 17 carries (6.3 ypc). He scored the go-ahead touchdown with 21 seconds left in the fourth quarter. He also converted the following two-point conversion on a rush to extend Arkansas' lead to 31-28.
- » RB Raheim Sanders totaled a career-high 41 receiving yards on three receptions.
- » LB Bumper Pool posted a team-best 10 tackles. It marks his fifth double-digit tackle game of the year and 14th of his career. Pool lead the team in tackles for the fifth time this year and 13th time of his career.
- » LB Grant Morgan recorded his second career interception in the second quarter, and the Razorbacks' third in the last two games. Since Barry Odom began as defensive coordinator in 2020, the Razorbacks have now totaled 21 interceptions in 19 games.
- » DE Tre Williams led the team with 2.0 sacks.
- » K Cam Little connected on field goals of 46, 48 and 51 yards, the latter setting a career-high. Since at least 1997, Little is the only Razorback kicker to make three field goals of 45+ yards in the same game.
- » Arkansas posted 393 total yards: 202 rushing yards and 191 passing yards. The Razorbacks ran for over 200 yards for the seventh time this season. Arkansas last ran for 200+ yards in a game at least seven times in 2015 (8).
- » Arkansas' defense held its opponent scoreless in the first quarter for the seventh time in nine games.
- » Arkansas eclipsed 30 points in a game for the sixth time this season, the most since 2017 (6).
- » Arkansas defeated Mississippi State for the second straight year and improved to 18-13-1 in the all-time series.
- » The Razorbacks improved to 6-3 (2-3 SEC) and became bowl eligible. Arkansas won at least six games in a year for the first time since 2016.

## WEATHER



MOSTLY SUNNY

## GAME INFO

### CAPTAINS

Grant Morgan, Jalen Catelon, Myron Cunningham, KJ Jefferson, Joe Fouca

### COIN TOSS

Arkansas won the toss and elected to receive.

### UNIFORMS

ARK - Red Helmet, Red Jersey, White Pants  
MSST - Maroon helmet, White Jersey, Maroon Pants

### ATTENDANCE

68,818

## ARK SCORING

### FIELD GOAL | 1Q | 7:52

Little field goal of 46 yards.

### TOUCHDOWN | 1Q | 3:56

Johnson rush of 1 yard.

### FIELD GOAL | 2Q | 3:21

Little field goal of 48 yards.

### FIELD GOAL | 3Q | 4:38

Little field goal of 51 yards.

### TOUCHDOWN | 4Q | 14:10

Jefferson pass of 14 yards to Burks.

### TOUCHDOWN | 4Q | 0:21

Johnson rush of 4 yards.

## STARTERS

### ARKANSAS

**QB** KJ Jefferson  
**RB** Dominique Johnson  
**WR** Treylon Burks  
**WR** Tyson Morris  
**WR** De'Vion Warren  
**TE** Blake Kern  
**LT** Myron Cunningham  
**LG** Brady Latham  
**C** Ricky Stromberg  
**RG** Beaux Limmer  
**RT** Dalton Wagner

**DE** Tre Williams  
**DT** John Ridgeway  
**DE** Markell Utsey  
**LB** Hayden Henry  
**LB** Grant Morgan  
**CB** LaDarris Bishop  
**CB** Montaric Brown  
**S** Myles Slusher  
**S** Joe Fouca  
**NB** Malik Chavis  
**DIME** Jayden Johnson

### MISSISSIPPI STATE

**QB** Will Rogers  
**RB** Dillion Johnson  
**WR** Makai Polk  
**WR** Jaden Walley  
**WR** Rara Thomas  
**WR** Austin Williams  
**RG** Cole Smith  
**LG** Kameron Jones  
**LT** Charles Cross  
**C** LaQuinston Sharp  
**RT** Scott Lashley

**CB** Martin Emerson  
**SAM** Tyrus Wheat  
**DE** Randy Charlton  
**DOG** Shawn Preston Jr.  
**CB** Emmanuel Forbes  
**MIKE** Nathaniel Watson  
**FS** Collin Duncan  
**DOG** Fred Peters  
**LB** Jett Johnson  
**NG** Cameron Young  
**DT** Jaden Crumedy



28

# ARKANSAS

VS MISSISSIPPI STATE



31

NOVEMBER 6, 2021

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM

## QUOTES

### Sam Pittman, Arkansas Head Coach

**Opening statement:**

"We beat a really good football team. Mississippi State has, and did play tonight, a great football game. I'm very, very proud of our team, our coaches, and our administration. We didn't just win the Super Bowl, but it feels like it. We're bowl eligible and very, very excited to know that we're going to play in December or January."

**On KJ Jefferson:**

"I love him. He was so poised on that two-minute drive. KJ really has gotten better. Going 19-for-23 and no interceptions, he played a heck of a football game."

**On Dominique Johnson's performance:**

"I think he was awesome. He's [performed well] all year, we just haven't been giving him the carries. He's done what he did tonight every time he's out there. He's good everywhere, but he's better as you wear [the defense] down. It's good to see Dominique do what he did, especially with more opportunities."

**On if Arkansas should be included in the College Football Playoff Rankings:**

"Absolutely, there's no question in my mind that we deserve to be in the top 25. We've beaten [No.] 7, 15 and 17, at the time. [Mississippi State] was basically looked at as the best three-loss team in the country. Absolutely, I think we're a top 25 team in the country and deserve [to be ranked]."

**On if things changed after the Miss State fourth-down penalty on the final drive:**

"I kept saying on the headset to [Offensive Coordinator Kendal] Briles, "get the first down," which he knows that I mean [to] run the football. Yeah, it changed big time. I didn't know if it was on them or us, but I sure was hoping and somebody up top [in the coaches' box] said they got a holding call."

### Grant Morgan, Arkansas LB

**On Mississippi State running it as much as they did:**

"We knew what they were gonna do. They ran it at times because of our coverage, but we were ready. They ran it well. We did enough to win."

**On Dominique Johnson's game tonight:**

"Everything that we expected throughout the week we saw tonight. He's an SEC back and he works hard. He made our football team better and the coaches know that so they're giving him more reps."

### Bumper Pool, Arkansas LB

**On getting bowl eligible:**

"Very important, especially since we're trying to build a program right now and the first step is getting into a bowl. I think we can build off that every year."

**On Arkansas defense after Miss State started to get in a rhythm**

"We were getting antsy, especially in our coverages. We wanted to jump on balls and make plays. We just had to go back and stay in our zones, letting the plays happen in front of us and go right in tackling."

**On Dominique Johnson:**

"To see him go out there and perform with the big lights is awesome because at practice he does the same thing to us. He is a very hard back to tackle. He has such big legs and keeps running. I'm just so happy for him and the success he had today."

**On The Last Play of The Game:**

"Honestly, it's such a cool moment to have a Military Game today. My grandfather passed a few years ago and my grandma got to come to this game. For it to be on a Military Night, I feel like he had his hand on us tonight. Super cool moment and it's something I will remember forever."

### Treyton Burks, Arkansas WR

**Can you talk about KJ's composure and how clutch he was down the stretch this game?**

"Really like I say every week KJ he's just a baller, you know he went out there sacrificed his body for us, the coaches, the Razorback fans and he played his heart out for us and during that two minute drive completing passes um, making plays with his legs when it was needed to, you know, He's just a all-around baller and we're really glad to have him on our team."

**Can you talk about Dominique's game today?**

"Really he showed up and he played like he was a senior to me, you know he went out there and balled out for his team and from us older guys we couldn't ask for me to go out there and



28

# ARKANSAS

vs MISSISSIPPI STATE



31

NOVEMBER 6, 2021

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM

## QUOTES

play your heart out for us.”

### Dominique Johnson, Arkansas RB

#### 17 Carries and over hundred yards can you talk about your performance today?

“We pretty much had a running mentality coming into to the game today. They were 4th in rush defense, I believe, so we pretty much had an emphasis on running the ball this week. Coach Pittman met with me this week and we talked about running the ball and that I needed to be prepared to run the ball. I think I came in and did a good job as well as the other backs coming in running the ball this game.”

#### RE: Can you talk about your mindset going into the last drive?

“No, I was not nervous. My mindset was pretty much, the whole offense mindset that last drive, was that we needed to score. So, everybody had it on their mind that we were going to down here and score, because we’re going to win this game and become bowl eligible. With that mindset we did what we did, and we got the touchdown.”

### KJ Jefferson, Arkansas QB

#### Can you talk about how big it is to have a kicker like Cam Little?

“I mean knowing that we go three and out down in the redzone, get the ball in the redzone. I mean we can’t score so just knowing Cam Little comes in and make those big time kicks was extremely helpful for both sides, defense and offense, just being able to put points on the board.”

#### How big is it to be bowl eligible?

“Like Bump said I’ve never experienced going to a bowl game so I don’t know what it’s like so just being able to overcome that just being able to be bowl eligible is extremely proud.”

### Mike Leach, Mississippi State Head Coach

#### On field goals and special teams right now:

“I think that there’s an open tryout; and you can announce this, there’s an open tryout on our campus for kickers. Anybody that wants to kick or walk on and kick for Mississippi State, we will hold a tryout any time you can get over there to our building, provided you’re cleared by the NCAA.”

#### On Arkansas final drive:

“I felt like their offensive line did a good job blocking us. I felt that we needed to affect the quarterback more. And then we did, we didn’t finish the deal. We just have to penetrate and create havoc back there. And the other thing, we took our eyes off some guys and let them score. I think at times, I haven’t watched the film yet, but we could probably tackle better.”

### Will Rogers, Mississippi State QB

#### On coming up short:

“It just sucks. There’s no other way to say it. You’re right there and we are a play away from winning the game, but we’ve got to make the play.”

#### On WR Rara Thomas’ game:

“He’s playing good ball right now. He does a lot of good things and he’s a good target. He’s a guy that gets open, he catches the ball, and he scores.”

#### On the adjustments made in the second half:

“We were just playing our ball. In the first half, we were kinda off, whether it was myself making a bad read, making a bad check or not hitting a guy. The receivers were kinda off a little bit the first couple of drives. I felt that as the game went on, we progressed and got back on check a little bit.”

#### On Arkansas’ defense:

“It was true drop-eight. Three high safeties pressed on the corner so they’re taking away our quick throws to the outside. They had a really good scheme, but that’s all on us. It’s all on us. We didn’t play well in the first half, and I thought the second half we picked things up. The running backs made some guys miss in space, receivers were getting open more and I was going through my progressions better as the game went on.”

### Aaron Brule, Mississippi State LB

#### On how you lead the locker room after the loss:

“When you lose a game like that, people are going to be down for a little bit. As a leader in the locker room, all you can do is tell everybody to keep their heads up, give everybody confidence and know we are going to do better.”



28

# ARKANSAS

VS MISSISSIPPI STATE



31

NOVEMBER 6, 2021

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM

## QUOTES

---

**On the mindset after seeing Arkansas score:**

"They begin the drive down the field, get the unfortunate call and they eventually ended up scoring. After that, you can be down on yourself if you want to but, like the offense did, they hurried up and saved us to be honest. We got out on the field and eventually missed the field goal, but we can build out on that. Get better for next week."