



ARKANSAS

VS MISSOURI STATE



27

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM

38

GAME NOTES

- » WR Ketrone Jackson Jr. snared a career-long 64 yard reception in the first quarter.
- » WR Matt Landers notched his third career game with 100+ receiving yards after totaling seven receptions for 123 yards.
- » RB Raheim Sanders finished with a career high 167 rushing yards and a career high 75 receiving yards, including a career-long 73-yard TD reception.
- » Sanders is one of seven SEC players since 2000 to record 100+ rushing yards, 1+ rushing touchdown, 70+ receiving yards and 1+ receiving touchdowns in a single game.
- » Sanders is the first Arkansas player since TJ Hammonds in 2017 against Coastal Carolina with 100+ rushing yard, 1+ rushing TD, 50+ receiving yards, 1+ receiving TD
- » Sanders has eclipsed the 100-yard rushing mark for the third straight game. He's the first Arkansas running back to rush for 100+ yards in the first three games of a season since Jonathan Williams and Alex Collins each did so in 2013.
- » QB K.J. Jefferson threw for a career-high 385 yards. His 19 completions and 31 attempts were season highs.
- » In the first half, Jefferson completed 9-of-15 passes (60%) for 237 yards and a touchdown. His 237 passing yards at the half are the most he has thrown for in the first half of a game.
- » Jefferson completed a season-long 73 yard pass to Raheim Sanders in the fourth quarter. It was Sanders' second career receiving TD.
- » Dating back to last season, Jefferson has rushed for a TD in four consecutive games. He is the first Arkansas QB to run for a TD in four games in a row since Quinn Grovey in 1988. He has thrown a TD and rushed for a TD in all three games in 2022.
- » Under head coach Sam Pittman, Arkansas has gained 400+ total yards of offense in 19 of 27 games, including six straight dating back to last season.
- » Head Coach Sam Pittman is the first Arkansas head coach since Lou Holtz (1977-78) to win his first seven games against non-conference opponents.
- » Saturday's attendance of 74,133 is the highest-attended game against an FCS foe in school history.
- » LB Drew Sanders posted his second consecutive game with double digit tackles and at least 1.5 sacks after finishing with 12, including a career-high 2.5 sacks.
- » DL Jordan Domineck tied his career high in sacks with 2.0. Domineck now has 13 career sacks (the most by a current Hog).
- » Bryce Stephens became the first Arkansas player to return a punt for a touchdown since Nathan Parodi did vs. UAPB in 2021.
- » S Saimeon Blair tallied a career-high 10 tackles, including nine solo stops.
- » Arkansas finished with eight sacks. Since 1999, the eight sacks in a game ties the most by the Razorbacks (8 vs Auburn in 2012 and 8 vs Texas in 1999. In addition to Drew Sanders' and Domineck, Zach Williams added two sacks - a career-high for Williams.

STARTERS

ARKANSAS

QB KJ JEFFERSON
 RB RAHEIM SANDERS
 WR MATT LANDERS
 WR JADON HASELWOOD
 WR WARREN THOMPSON
 TE TREY KNOX
 LT LUKE JONES
 LG BRADY LATHAM
 C RICKY STROMBERG
 RG BEAUX LIMMER
 RT DALTON WAGNER

MISSOURI STATE

DE ZACH WILLIAMS
 DT ISAIAH NICHOLS
 DT ERIC GREGORY
 DE LANDON JACKSON
 WILL BUMPER POOL
 MIKE DREW SANDERS
 CB DWIGHT MCGLOTHERN
 CB MALIK CHAVIS
 S LATAVIOUS BRINI
 S SIMEON BLAIR
 NB JAYDEN JOHNSON

QB JASON SHELLEY
 RB JACARDIA WRIGHT
 WR JORDAN JONES
 WR TY SCOTT
 WR KEVON LATULAS
 TE MASON LANCE
 LT LANDON BEBEE
 LG TEVITA FUIMAONO
 C RYAN SULIAFU
 RG SEAN FITZGERALD
 RT IAN FITZGERALD

DE KEVIN ELLIS
 DT IKENNA AHUMIBE
 DT ALLEN LOVE
 DE DEVIN GOREE
 LB TAHJ CHAMBERS
 LB VON YOUNG
 LB FERRIN MANULELEUA
 CB CALEB BLAKE
 CB MONTRAE BRASWELL
 S KYRIQ MCDONALD
 S DILLON THOMAS

WEATHER

88°

CLEAR

GAME INFO

CAPTAINS

Simeon Blair, KJ Jefferson, Bumper Pool, Dalton Wagner

COIN TOSS

Arkansas won the toss and deferred to the second half.

UNIFORMS

ARK - Red Helmet, Red Jersey, White Pants
MSU - Maroon Helmet, White Jersey, White Pants

ATTENDANCE

74,133

ARK SCORING

TOUCHDOWN | 2Q | 8:25

Raheim Sanders rush of 3 yards.

TOUCHDOWN | 2Q | 1:04

Jadon Haselwood 38 yard pass from K.J. Jefferson

FIELD GOAL | 3Q | 5:36

Cam Little good from 27 yards.

TOUCHDOWN | 4Q | 11:38

Raheim Sanders 73 yard pass from K.J. Jefferson.

TOUCHDOWN | 4Q | 9:16

Bryce Stephens punt return for 82 yards.

TOUCHDOWN | 4Q | 1:39

KJ Jefferson rush of 1 yard.



27

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QUOTES

Sam Pittman, Arkansas Head Coach

Opening statement:

"Well, I want to congratulate Missouri State and Coach Petrino on a great game plan. He had his kids prepared more than I did. He did a wonderful job; they have a wonderful quarterback. Man did he make a lot of plays.

"We turned the ball over twice, but then Bryce Stephens returned a punt for the first time this year. We're just so fortunate to win these game like this, you know if you are not playing well or the other team is playing well, or whatever the situation is, you're just trying to fight and claw and get out with a win.

"There were several different times in the game where it didn't look like we were going to win. Our kids just kept fighting and clawing and to come out with an 11-point win, that says a lot about the culture of our program and of our kids. I'm really proud that we won the game and I'll leave it at that."

On Bryce Stephen's punt return...

"Well Sam Mbake, he was on their gunner. We felt like that if we could handle their gunner we would have, not an opportunity to score a touchdown, but an opportunity for a decent return. Mbake did a really good job on the outside.

"Bryce [Stephens] won the 100 meters at Oklahoma, and he's fast. He got up the sideline, their guys did a great job, but he got up the sideline and outran them. It was a big, big, big play in the game. I was happy for him and the special teams and especially happy for [Scott] Fountain. We thought we'd have a chance to return one, but we obviously didn't think to go for a touchdown.

"We had to put some pressure on them, and we hadn't put pressure on them. They were up 7, then 10, then 14, then 17. We tied it and then went up a touchdown, then up a field goal, then up 10, and they really never had pressure on them. That allowed us to play with a lead which was a big, big thing at the end of the game."

Feeling on the sidelines when the team took the lead:

"Well, we had to put some pressure on them, we never had put any pressure on them. They were up seven, then ten, then fourteen, then seventeen, then one or the other. Then we tied it, then went up a touchdown, then a field goal and then ten. We never really had pressure on them, we never got ahead of them, and then, that allowed us to play with a lead which was a big, big thing at the end"

On if the team was looking forward to next week:

"No I don't to be honest with you. I thought we had a really good week of practice. I think we were focused. Now, I think there is a difference in looking forward to next week and not giving enough respect to the team you are playing. I just think Missouri State outplayed us to be perfectly honest. But if I were going to have a reason why or something like that, it is because they did and the other thing is that you know I remember when we went in and beat Cincinnati and nobody was happy. You know, Cincinnati is a good team you know, so we aren't going to have problems getting up for the next few. You know the name on the side of the hat... pretty significant, but I don't in any way not give Missouri State anything they deserve. I don't know if their team was any better than us today because we beat them, but coach was better than me today and I have to get that fixed.

Mood on the sidelines early in the game:

I learned against auburn last year not to panic. You guys may think I was on the fourth down when we ran the ball, but I tried not to panic because if I do, the team will. We just kept talking to them about what we were doing well. We were running well into the boundary, we were protecting well on offense [and] we weren't holding onto the ball. We would give it to them on the goal line when we were about to score. We give it to them on the 25 when we are moving the ball well. We couldn't get off the field third down. We didn't tackle well tonight at all, but we made enough plays to win. We have to get better at some of that stuff, but no we didn't panic. If we do, it is just becomes a point fest, and we are a team and I don't want to do that.

KJ Jefferson, Arkansas QB

On the punt return that gave Arkansas the lead:

"Like [Bryce Stephens] said, we needed a momentum play, and Bryce delivered. Shoutout to the coaches and the guys on special teams. They put together a great plan this week, and having a guy like Bryce back there, you can trust him and know he's due for a big play any moment. We needed that tonight and [Bryce] delivered."

On Matt Landers' breakout game:

"He's real hard on himself. Me, being the leader that I am, I keep telling him 'next play, next play, I'm not losing confidence in you, and just know that I can go to you in any big moment and deliver a great ball to you for you to make a play.' You just have to keep him level-headed, have a neutral mindset and not let him get too down on himself."

How it felt to let loose in the passing game with 385 yards passing:

"I knew my guys could run and make plays down the field, so I was just trying to give them a catchable ball and give them a shot to make plays on the outside. Looking at their defense, they were loading the box and were ready for the run, so we knew we could open up the passing game, and then the running game would come after that."

Mindset on the sidelines after being down 17-0:

"Everyone had an elite mindset. We had to be able to overcome adversity knowing that we hadn't been down this season. We didn't point the finger, everyone came together and kept encouraging each other and keeping everybody uplifted with no bad body language."



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Raheim Sanders, Arkansas QB

RE: ON the way you've ran the ball in the first three weeks? Do you feel like you're making a statement nationally with the way you're playing?

"I definitely feel like I'm making a statement, but in this game I had a lot of mistakes starting off with the first quarter. I just had to keep trusting the offense and trusting my reads helped me out with that."

RE: Talk about the shovel pass play

"We ran that play against South Carolina. It worked, but I didn't read it right. Having that play called again tonight, I got chills knowing that I was going to take it far, if not for a touchdown, by looking at the play in the South Carolina game. I feel like I could have scored on that play, too. Watching that play helped me out today."

RE: Making up for the early fumble

"I feel like I tried make up for it. Yeah, I did great tonight, but I think that's something I need to work on. We work on ball security a lot, but I had my team there for me. That was a down play for me, but making a great play after that helped me."

Bryce Stephens, Arkansas WR/PR

RE: On his punt return

"I was on the sideline, and I knew we needed a momentum play. Before the play, Sam [Mbake] told me to look at his side when I was back there and for me to do what I do. There were great blocks all around and I appreciate my teammates for doing that. I hit the hole and went outside."

RE: Did you feel like there was something there coming into the game with special teams

"Before the game [special teams] was talked on a lot. I went in there knowing I can get something every return."

Drew Sanders, Arkansas LB

On the number of sacks being key to success...

"Anytime you can affect the quarterback it's going to be huge in the game. Their quarterback was phenomenal, just making plays all over the place. If we can get to him, we know that it will help switch the momentum back to our side."

On his performance so far this season...

"It's fun playing in this defense. We have a lot of ways to get after a team and especially affect the quarterback. Just how Coach Odom is scheming up everything, it's fun to play in and provides a lot of opportunities. It's our job to take advantage of it."

Simeon Blair, Arkansas S

On 'righting the ship' after the start...

"We didn't start fast. I don't feel like we overlooked them at all, we knew that they were going to be a good team. We looked at a lot of their film against Oklahoma State the previous year when they had a good game and almost beat them. I just feel like we started a little slow, we were trying to get our legs under us. I feel like on the sideline something that we grew at today, we never had any panic. We knew each other had each other's back and we knew that the offense was going to get it going. We knew that we had keep making stops and start to get stops for our offense to score."

On Bryce Stephens' punt return...

"It was phenomenal. I have to cover Bryce a lot in practice, so I know he's super fast. We talked about it all week that we have to make sure we block and Sam Mbake, a freshman, did a wonderful job of blocking and we knew we would be able to get out the gate. It was very exciting. It was a huge momentum shift. It gave us a little bit more energy to go out there and play that much harder."

Jordan Domineck, Arkansas DE

On Bryce Stephens' punt return...

"It really gave us a breath of fresh air. We were sitting there on the sideline and saw it happen in real-time and we're just like, sitting there with our hearts racing, and all of a sudden it goes faster and faster as the play develops. That was really how it was for us. We just wanted to ride that momentum home."

On the impact he (Jordan Domineck) has made...

"It's a great feeling to be able to impact the team. I came out here to play my heart all the way out and just do what I need to do. It's really just the defensive scheme that's able to set it up for me. If you saw that sack at the end of the half, Drew (Sanders) really had him first. It really should be six and a half. He let him go and it saved me, but I'm still chasing him and trying to beat him in sacks."



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Bobby Petrino, Missouri State Head Coach

Opening Statement:

"I'm really proud of our team and our assistant coaches. Did a really nice job of preparing, we had good practices, we came in and competed extremely hard, we had a good plan, and we were able to jump up and get a lead. We knew it was going to be hard to hold on to it, but we got really good players and really good coaches, so we knew we were going to make a run back. I was encouraged when we answered it and got another touchdown, but eventually they wore us down, made a lot of plays, and we let them beat us."

On his team's fearless mentality:

"Really proud of them. I think that we have really good leadership, we wanted to be tough, to try to match their speed and their physical-ness, and I think for most of the night we did a pretty good job of that. But nobody blinked, our guys played extremely hard. We just got to try to build on that. We've got a really tough game next week too, so it just keeps getting better."

On the team's speed:

"I think they did a good job. The thing you always worry about when there's a little bit of a mismatch in personnel, you know, you get a little wide-eyed and don't really believe we can play with them and don't believe we can win, because then things happen that don't normally happen. But our guys didn't do that."

"They believed that we would go find a way to win the game. They played extremely hard, and made a lot of plays. It was a good night for most of it with our team. We do want to win the game, that's the reason we came here, but Arkansas is a really good football team. You can't say enough about how well-coached they are and how many really good players they have."

On what the game means for his program:

"I mean it's been fun. It's been really fun to watch the players' beliefs change, how much more they believe in themselves now and how their expectations have changed. How they expect to go through practice, how they expect their teammate to practice hard, so that's been the greatest part of it, I guess, to watch their expectations change, to watch them grow and watch them come together as a family."

"We're all from everywhere, our team is from all across the country. If you look at our roster, where are we recruiting at? Where's our recruiting base? America, that's our recruiting base. Because we're from everywhere, and to be able to come together, says a lot about our assistant coaches and says a lot about the leaders on our team."

Jason Shelley, Missouri State QB

RE: What Missouri State proved:

"I think we proved that we're a team that's hard nose and got a lot of effort and a lot of guys with talent and I think that kind of showcased today. We had a couple missed assignments here and there, but I think that cost us in the end. Overall, I think the guys came out and played hard."

Noise factor out on the field

"It was pretty loud, but it's always going to be loud when you're the away team. We just have to handle the crowd and outside distractions, we'll be alright. It's kind of a learning experience. I don't think we're ever going to play in front of 80,000 again, but I think we'll be alright."

Ty Scott, Missouri State WR

RE: On going toe to toe with a Power 5 school:

"It closed up all doubter's mouths and gave our team a spark that we can play with anybody. Any college, no matter FCS or FBS. Like I say its eleven versus eleven. I think our guys did just enough to show the world we can play with anybody."

On what Missouri state can take from tonight going into next week

"Play all four quarters, I'm going to be honest that fourth quarter wasn't us. So, now we have to go take it out on someone else."

Ferrin Manuleleua, Missouri State LB

RE: Stopping the Run:

"We knew going into the game that they're a run first team. We knew the key to the game was to stop the run first. We really just had to hit on explosive (plays). We needed to lead with explosive plays, and we'll could keep the game closer."

RE: Creating Turnovers:

"All week, our DC (Ryan Beard) preached, we need to get as many turnovers as we can. It came in clutch, but we just came up short. At the end of the day, it comes down to who wants it, who wants the ball. I feel like we wanted it. We got it out a few times."