



ARKANSAS

VS WESTERN CAROLINA



13

SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

WAR MEMORIAL STADIUM

56

GAME NOTES

- » QB KJ Jefferson has now thrown and rushed for a touchdown in the same game 11 times in his career. Jefferson finished 18-for-23 with 246 yards and three passing touchdowns.
- » QB KJ Jefferson completed his first 12 passes to start today's game. He is the first Razorback quarterback to complete their first 12 passes of a game since QB Brandon Allen went 14-for-14 to start against Texas A&M in 2015.
- » Arkansas' first touchdown of the 2023 season comes on QB KJ Jefferson's 65-yard pass to WR Jaedon Wilson. It is Jefferson's sixth career touchdown pass of 65-plus yards.
- » RB Raheim Sanders recorded his sixth career game with multiple rushing touchdowns. Sanders finished with 15 carries for 42 yards and two scores.
- » WRs Andrew Armstrong, Isaac TeSlaa, Davion Dozier and Jaedon Wilson hauled in their first receiving touchdowns as Razorbacks.
- » Saturday marked the first time Arkansas has intercepted four passes in a game since against getting four versus Ole Miss in 2020. It was also the first time Arkansas had five turnovers in a game since getting seven in that Ole Miss game in 2020.
- » Since the start of the 2020 season (Pittman's first season as head coach), the Hogs have totaled 39 interceptions in 37 games. DB Hudson Clark is responsible for five of those 36 interceptions.
- » P Max Fletcher booted a career-long 52-yard punt in the third quarter. He has three career 50+ yard punts. Fletcher boomed five punts for 245 yards (49 yards per punt) with two punts downed inside the 20-yard line.
- » True freshman Brad Spence's 85-yard interception return for a TD was the longest by a Razorback since Rohan Gaines' 100-yard return for a TD in 2014 versus Ole Miss.

WEATHER

82°

SUNNY

GAME INFO

CAPTAINS

Landon Jackson, Trajan Jeffcoat, KJ Jefferson, Raheim Sanders

COIN TOSS

Arkansas won the toss and deferred to the second half.

UNIFORMS

ARK - Red Helmet, Red Jersey, White Pants
WCU - Purple Helmet, White Jersey, Purple Pants

ATTENDANCE

44,397

ARK SCORING

TOUCHDOWN | 1Q | 13:03

Jaedon Wilson 65-yard reception from KJ Jefferson.

TOUCHDOWN | 1Q | 12:06

Raheim Sanders 3-yard rush.

TOUCHDOWN | 1Q | 3:03

Isaac TeSlaa 31-yard reception from KJ Jefferson.

TOUCHDOWN | 2Q | 2:56

KJ Jefferson 17-yard rush.

TOUCHDOWN | 2Q | 0:00

Raheim Sanders 1-yard rush.

TOUCHDOWN | 3Q | 6:13

Andrew Armstrong 16-yard reception from KJ Jefferson.

TOUCHDOWN | 4Q | 7:55

Davion Dozier 14-yard reception from Jacoby Criswell.

TOUCHDOWN | 4Q | 4:19

Brad Spence 85-yard interception return.

STARTERS

ARKANSAS

QB KJ JEFFERSON
 RB RAHEIM SANDERS
 WR ANDREW ARMSTRONG
 WR JAEDON WILSON
 WR ISAAC TESLAA
 TE LUKE HASZ
 LT ANDREW CHAMBLEE
 LG JOSHUA BRAUN
 C BEAUX LIMMER
 RG TY'KIEAST CRAWFORD
 RT PATRICK KUTAS

WESTERN CAROLINA

DE LANDON JACKSON
 DT TAUREAN CARTER
 DT ERIC GREGORY
 DE TRAJAN JEFFCOAT
 LB JAHEIM THOMAS
 LB JORDAN CROOK
 CB DWIGHT MCGLOTHERN
 S AL WALCOTT
 S JAYDEN JOHNSON
 CB JAHEIM SINGLETARY
 NB LORANDO JOHNSON

QB COLE GONZALES
 RB DESMOND REID
 WR CENSERE LEE
 WR DAVID WHITE JR.
 WR CALVIN JONES
 TE AJAY BELANGER
 LT TYLER SMITH
 LG CHRISTIAN COULTER
 C BLAKE WHITEMORE
 RG CALEB CARTER
 RT DEREK SIMMONS

DE CALEB FISHER
 NT MARLON ALEXANDER
 DT JAQUARIUS GUINN
 BNDT JAYELIN DAVIS
 LB HAYWARD MCQUEEN
 LB VA LEALAIMATAFAO
 LB ED JONES IV
 CB ROD GATTISON
 S ANDREAS KEATON
 S MATEO SUDIPO
 CB CJ WILLIAMS



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ARKANSAS QUOTES

Sam Pittman, Arkansas Head Coach

Opening statement:

I want to start out by thanking the Arkansas fans for coming out today, I thought the crowd was outstanding and loud. I'm very thankful. I'm proud of the team. We got to play a whole lot of people, which we haven't done since I've been here. The wonderful thing about that is the second team and some threes picked a pass and scored and basically won 7-3 when they went. Also, the second team offense went down and scored. We've gotten away from "did I get to play or not" to "how well did you play." We've got some things to clean up with penalties. Our run game was not what we wanted it to be but let's not make a mountain out of a molehill. The passing game was what we wanted it to be and the protections were what we wanted to be. I'll take a 50, 60 or 70, any time a team wants to give it to us.

Starting out fast

Anytime you start fast you take a chance on what you do. We talked about physicality and it worked. I don't know if it would work every time but it worked. The defense started fast and had two or three 3-and-outs in a row and the offense went right back and scored. We were a little slow in the second quarter but scoring at the end gave us momentum going up 35-3.

On Jaedon Johnson

He's done really well ever since spring ball. He had to earn his spot and he did. He's playing really good football; he's a really physical guy. I've called him out in front of the team about how he has changed. In life, if you wait for someone else to change you you're going to be left out. He changed his attitude about what they wanted and what they're willing to work for and I'm proud of them because he has come a long way.

KJ Jefferson, Arkansas QB

Thoughts on the game as a whole and in your performance today?

I think we did a really good job. I think we came out and we executed the game plan. In the past in the early games, we haven't, as an offense, been starting fast and kind of lingering around. I think we came out this week and just had a big emphasis on starting fast, being urgent and making sure we know what we're doing. As a whole, the offense came out of executed the game plan.

Being on the same page as Coach Enos

I knew how he was going to call the game. We communicated on the sidelines on the headsets. I would tell him what I was seeing and we would tell me what he was seeing so it was just great communication between the two of us and we were on the same page.

On his "five" incompletions

I want to keep getting better at (my completion percentage) and that's me being hard on myself and wanting to push myself to limits. I was to clean up some mistakes, different reads and my footwork as well. I will put a big emphasis on that this week.

Scoring when defense created turnovers

We just feed off each other. They create takeaways and we turn that takeaway into an explosive play on offense. It was good playing on both parts.

Jaheim Thomas, Arkansas LB

On the opener

We came out with a lot of juice. We set the pressure. We made tackles and flew to the ball. Having that energy, guys making plays, having fun; I think that helped us going into the first game. I feel real comfortable with the defense and my teammates.

On Brad Spence

Spence, he's a ball player with a bright future. Just seeing him out there and making plays was big for him.



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WESTERN CAROLINA QUOTES

Kerwin Bell, Western Carolina Head Coach

What did you think of K.J. Jefferson today?

Well I told him I thought he was phenomenal. I didn't know he threw it as well as he did. Just seeing him in person ... he's a big body kid. I think there's two things that this Arkansas team did a really good job to be able to compete this year. In this league, you better have depth at the defensive line and be good there. They went and addressed that. Then, they've got an all star quarterback. When you've got those two things, you give yourself a chance. So this (Arkansas) team has got a chance to make some noise in the SEC.

What are all your thoughts on the game today?

I'm a little disappointed. We just didn't give it our best shot. I thought we played very hard and violent like we wanted to do. We really played hard and just wanted to have a chance to hold up against those guys. We just didn't play very smart and we talked about turnover ratio. That (turnovers) killed us last year. I think those three turnovers in the first half didn't really give us a chance to move the football and get going. A little disappointed, but we learned a lot for ourselves. We got to get back on the horse and next week go play one of the best teams in our conference and get our first win.

You wanted to limit the big plays and I guess very early on they got a big one.

I mean when you play athletes like this, we didn't fit it right. Our corner came up inside and got caught inside and so (the Arkansas receiver) gets down the sideline and he outruns our angles. We got to turn that thing back into our help. So little things like that, hopefully we will learn from and play a really good football game team like that. They made some big plays that really got them over the top and separated us there in the first half.