



ARKANSAS

vs BYU



38

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM

31

GAME NOTES

- » Arkansas has scored 30+ points in 18 of QB KJ Jefferson's 29 career starts under center. Jefferson finished the game 24-35-1 with 247 passing yards and a passing touchdown.
- » RB AJ Green had a career-long 55-yard rushing touchdown in the first quarter. It's also the longest rushing touchdown since Rocket Sanders' 68-yard score vs. Ole Miss in 2022.
- » RB AJ Green logged his first career game with multiple rushing touchdowns after finishing with two. Green finished with nine carries for 86 yards (9.6 ypc).
- » RB AJ Green is the first Razorback player to rush for two touchdowns and record a tackle in the same game since RB Broderick Green accomplished the feat against Eastern Michigan in 2009.
- » WR Isaiah Sategna's 88-yard punt return in the first quarter is the first punt return touchdown since Bryce Stephens' 82-yard return vs. Missouri State in 2022. Sategna's punt return touchdown is the longest since Joe Adams' 97-yard return vs. Ole Miss in 2010.
- » WR Isaiah Sategna recorded a career high 149 all-purpose yards, tallying 95 punt return yards and 49 kickoff return yards.
- » RB Rashod Dubinion charted a career high 13 rushes for a career high 47 yards.
- » TE Luke Hasz hauled in his first career touchdown reception - a 19-yard catch - in the second quarter. Hasz finished with four receptions for 78 yards (19.5 ypc).
- » DE Landon Jackson registered career highs in sacks (1.5) and tackles for loss (3.5). Jackson tied his career high in tackles with five (four solo).
- » LB Jaheim Thomas led the Hogs in tackles with nine stops (six solo) and one quarterback hurry.
- » P Max Fletcher booted a career-long 54-yard punt in the first quarter. Fletcher had six punts for 239 yards (39.8 average) and two punts for 50+ yards. He had three punts downed inside the 20-yard line.
- » With his 26-yard field goal, K Cam Little is now a perfect 13-for-13 from inside 30 yards in his career. For his career, Little has connected on 34-of-42 field goals. His career field goal percentage (80.9%) ranks first all-time in Arkansas history (min. 20 made field goals).
- » Tonight's attendance of 74,821 is the eighth-largest in Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium history.

WEATHER

78°

OVERCAST

GAME INFO

CAPTAINS

Landon Jackson, Trajan Jeffcoat, KJ Jefferson and Brady Latham

COIN TOSS

BYU won the toss and deferred to the second half.

UNIFORMS

ARK - Red Helmet, Red Jersey, White Pants
BYU - Blue Helmet, White Jersey, Blue Pants

ATTENDANCE

74,821

ARK SCORING

TOUCHDOWN | 1Q | 13:21

AJ Green 55-yard rush.

TOUCHDOWN | 1Q | 11:29

Isaiah Sategna 88-yard punt return.

TOUCHDOWN | 2Q | 1:43

KJ Jefferson pass complete to Luke Hasz for 19 yards.

FIELD GOAL | 2Q | 0:03

Cam Little good from 26 yards.

TOUCHDOWN | 3Q | 11:41

AJ Green 7-yard rush.

STARTERS

ARKANSAS

QB KJ JEFFERSON
 RB AJ GREEN
 WR ANDREW ARMSTRONG
 WR ISAAC TESLAA
 TE FRANCIS SHERMAN
 TE LUKE HASZ
 LT ANDREW CHAMBLEE
 LG BRADY LATHAM
 C BEAUX LIMMER
 RG JOSH BRAUN
 RT PATRICK KUTAS

BYU

DE LANDON JACKSON
 DT TAUREAN CARTER
 DT ERIC GREGORY
 DE TRAJAN JEFFCOAT
 LB JAHEIM THOMAS
 LB CHRIS PAUL JR.
 CB LORANDO JOHNSON
 S AL WALCOTT
 S JAYDEN JOHNSON
 CB JAYLON BRAXTON
 NB HUDSON CLARK

QB KEDON SLOVIS
 RB LJ MARTIN
 WR DARIUS LASSITER
 WR CHASE ROBERTS
 WR KEANU HILL
 TE ISAAC REX
 LT KINGSLEY SUAMATAIA
 LG WEYLIN LAPUAHO
 C PAUL MAILE
 RG CONNOR PAY
 RT CALEB ETIENNE

DE TYLER BATTY
 NT ATUNAISA MAHE
 DT JACKSON CRAVENS
 OE ISAIAH BAGNAH
 SAM AJ VONGPHACHANH
 MACKBEN BYWATER
 ROVERMAX TOOLEY
 SS ETHAN SLADE
 S CREW WAKLEY
 CB JAKOB ROBINSON
 CB EDDIE HECKARD



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ARKANSAS QUOTES

Sam Pittman, Arkansas Head Coach

Opening statement:

I want to give BYU credit. We knew they had a team that played extremely hard and they certainly did. They took care of the ball a little better than us and they certainly were better in the penalty area. We want to give them credit because they played a good football game and we have a lot of things to clean up. They exposed us a little bit with their pass rush and not necessarily by bringing extras, but just with their ends. Certainly, the penalties, we've got to get a handle on that.

On the final drive

They were all holding penalties and we jumped offsides on one of them. When (Andrew) Chamblee went down we moved Brady [Latham] to tackle. We moved Chamblee to begin with because [Patrick] Kutas got hurt and Kutas came back out there. We just weren't moving our feet and getting on edge. They bulled us a lot of the game and, when you're setting for a bull rush, sometimes you're susceptible for an inside move. That's what happened and we were holding them.

On the next four games

It's hard to lose any time because the crowd was so great. The Hog Walk was so great. The people were loud. We disappointed the home fans. They're all hard to lose. I don't really look at it as a four-game stretch on the road. LSU, as we saw, played really well on the road. We've got our work cut out for us you know with the next one at night. Obviously, it's hard to go into Baton Rouge.

Chris Paul Jr., Arkansas LB

On them capitalizing on your mistakes

We have to play our brand of football all four quarters. Every time we made a mistake, they would capitalize. We can let that happen defensively. We can't let the mistakes happen offensively. We played hard, but we need to play smarter like Coach (Pittman) said. We just learn from this experience. We have to take the loss and move on and know that we didn't play our brand of ball. We are onto LSU. That is our top priority now, getting ready for that game in Baton Rouge."

BYU only has 281 yards of offense but 38 points to show for it, what do you make of that?

Just go back to what we have said. They capitalized off of mistakes. We gave them short yardage opportunities and they capitalized. We just can't let that happen.

Landon Jackson, Arkansas DE

Thoughts on the game:

They were executing every time we made a mistake. We have to play all three phases of the game better ... offensively, defensively, and special teams. That was definitely not our best ball. That is not what we want to showcase for our program. They got momentum. We needed to kill the momentum and we didn't do that today. We allowed them to get momentum and drive it down our throats. That is not our brand of football at all. They capitalized when they were supposed to and we didn't.



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BYU QUOTES

Kalani Sitake, BYU Head Coach

Opening Statement

I'm glad we got the win. What a cool environment. So many positive things about this, just being on the road and being here in Fayetteville. I'm just really impressed with the crowd here, with Arkansas, their team, their coaches and definitely their crowd. It was a really cool experience. It was a hard-fought battle, just things went our way a little bit more than it did for Arkansas. But, I'm really proud of our team, fighting back. I feel like we have a little bit of familiarity of playing against them last year and seeing them on film. The guys were ready for a challenge this year and being out here on the road was a lot of fun. I want to give a lot of credit to Sam Pittman and his team. I think they are definitely a really good team, and we see all the things they are doing. They are playing without their main back [Raheim Sanders] that has been out a little bit, but when he gets back, I wish him well in the SEC. I think they will do some really good things. We had some things go well for us and we ended up getting the victory. Again, [it was] a cool environment, cool experience for our guys and I'm glad they got to end it with a win.

On what he told the team to rally back from a 14-point deficit early:

You just have to roll with it. There is way more time to play. It was early in the game. There was a lot more football left to play. Even when we were up by seven, I was looking at clock like "oh man, there is eight minutes left. I wish the clock could just run down to zero already." We had our opportunities to win the game and probably put it away, but it took every second. That's a huge credit to Arkansas. I have to credit our guys for the resilience, the belief in each other and just not giving up. I think we made some really good steps for our program and our team. They believe in each other, but there is a lot of improvement to make still. We still have made a lot of mistakes and some of them are things that just need to be fixed, so that's me, I'm the head coach. [It's been] three weeks in a row of illegal touching. That's on me. I can't blame the players because if they are doing it, I'm allowing it to happen. We will fix that, but if we keep winning, we will still try to fix it. I feel really fortunate we were able to get the win. I feel like there are some things, looking at Arkansas' side, where they had penalties or drive killers that hurt them on a big play. That was fortunate for us, not for them. We just knew we had to keep playing with them. Even in the second half, we were down by 10 and the guys just had to keep believing. I would just like to play our best for a full 60 minutes and not keep it interesting, but again I say that with the fact that Arkansas is a really talented team and is well coached. We will take the win. I just like how our guys fought until the very end.

The effort to take down KJ Jefferson:

Oh gosh, he's such a beast. I was hoping he would go to the NFL last year. He is such a presence. When he has time and he's comfortable, he is dangerous. Even then, we had a couple shots on him and we just couldn't take this guy down. Man, he's a big-time player. I didn't get to talk to him after the game, but I wanted to wish him well because I like the way he plays the game. I like how a lot of these guys play the game. I like the way their front plays the game. They have a really talented team, so I'm looking forward to seeing them play in their conference. We will be cheering for them.

Kedon Slovis, BYU QB

Talk about taking those first couple of body shots and then coming back from them and staying in the ball game

We got down 14-0 but there is still so much time left. Regardless of that, there was still 12 minutes left in the first quarter. You knew that we just needed to get something going in our favor. We got our first touchdown and things got rolling. We got the second body shot the second half and, at that point, we were down by 11. We came back from more than that earlier so the guys stayed positive. I am proud of the guys and that is a tough team to battle back from being down two times in the game.

Talk about that double pass play you first scored on what that was like, and had you all been saving that for a game like this?

Yes, we put that in this week. It looked good in practice, Parker (Kingston) used to play quarterback in high school so every time we practiced it, it was clean. We always try to put a trick play in every game or a few. That was one that we put in and I think we knew it was going to get called because of how well we did it in practice.

Parker Kingston, BYU WR

We just heard you were a quarter back in high school and talking about that play earlier in the game, just walk through that play and what it was like.

It was surreal. I didn't know we were going to call the play that early in the game, I thought it was going to be later in the game when we needed to change momentum. We needed to change it early and we had been running it all week. I knew that if we ran it and executed it like we should, it would be a touchdown.

What did that catch touchdown pass throw line mean to you and what will you remember this game by?

It means a lot obviously, but I want to shout out to everyone that made it able. Like, Deion (Smith), Chase (Roberts), Darius (Lassiter), who were blocking for the touchdown throw. Kingsley (Sumamtaia) and Isaac (Rex) who were blocking for the touchdown. None of that would happen without them, so it is very surreal, but I want to thank them before thanking me.



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BYU QUOTES

Chase Roberts, BYU WR

On his one-handed TD catch

Ever since I was little, I've always practiced those sideline, one-handed catches. I've never had one of those before, but I feel like just focusing on catching the ball. Once you've played receiver for a while, you kind of have a feel for the field. I knew where I was in the endzone and I knew I could get a foot down. I just had to focus on catching the ball. I was able to reel it in for a touchdown.

On what was said on the BYU sideline after going down 14-0

I feel like we were calm. We knew that they started fast obviously and knew that we could come back. We have a great offense and we can score some points. Once we got points on the board, it's a one-score game. We were able to do that, then tie it up and then go ahead. Football has so much momentum, and we were able to get that momentum back. That's football. It was so early in the game that we couldn't be flustered. We have a resilient team and Kalani's [Sitake] drilled that into us ever since day one.

Tyler Batty, BYU DE

Arkansas goes ahead 31-21 early in the second half and you guys shut them out from then on out, what'd you think of the team's ability to close so strong

It's a new strength for our defense. I was super excited to see that and to be a part of that. It's something we want to continue to do going forward."

Kalani [Sitake] noted that there was maybe some familiarity with their [Arkansas'] personnel, how much of that impacted your guys' performance tonight

That's something we do every week. Every time we go to scout a team, we scout personnel, and we know who we're going up against. Of course, the familiarity of playing them last year I think was a big advantage. It's a very different team from last year, but for the guys that played them last year I think it definitely helped."