



# ARKANSAS

vs. AUBURN



48

NOVEMBER 11, 2023

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM

10

## GAME NOTES

- » WR Andrew Armstrong has recorded at least one catch in 26 consecutive games dating back to his 2021 campaign at Texas A&M-Commerce. Armstrong finished with two receptions for 34 yards.
- » WR Isaac TeSlaa caught a team-high three passes for 32 yards and hauled in his second touchdown of the season - an 11-yard reception from QB Jacoby Criswell.
- » TE Nathan Bax had a career-high two catches for 15 yards.
- » With his 39-yard made field goal, K Cam Little improved to 13-of-14 (92.9%) on field goals from 30-39 yards in his career.
- » K Cam Little owns the Arkansas record for consecutive successful point after attempts with 122, a streak that ranks second among all active FBS kickers.
- » DB Dwight McGlothern recorded his third interception of the season in the first quarter. McGlothern has tallied eight interceptions throughout his career.
- » DB Jaylon Braxton registered his first career interception in the fourth quarter.
- » Since the start of the 2020 campaign, the Arkansas defense has totaled 45 interceptions in 46 games.
- » It is the Razorback defense's third multi-interception game of the season (also did so against LSU and Ole Miss).

## WEATHER

62°

SUNNY

## GAME INFO

### CAPTAINS

Landon Jackson, Trajan Jeffcoat, KJ Jefferson and Brady Latham

### COIN TOSS

Arkansas won the toss and deferred until the second half.

### UNIFORMS

ARK - Red Helmet, Red Jersey, White Pants  
AU - White Helmet, White Jerseys, White Pants

### ATTENDANCE

72,033

## ARK SCORING

FIELD GOAL | 1Q | 1:54

Cam Little good from 39 yards.

TOUCHDOWN | 4Q | 14:35

Jacoby Criswell pass complete to Isaac TeSlaa for 11 yards.

## STARTERS

### ARKANSAS

QB KJ JEFFERSON  
 RB RAHEIM SANDERS  
 WR ANDREW ARMSTRONG  
 WR ISAAC TESLAA  
 WR TYRONE BRODEN  
 TE NATHAN BAX  
 LT DEVON MANUEL  
 LG BRADY LATHAM  
 C BEAUX LIMMER  
 RG JOSH BRAUN  
 RT TY'KIEAST CRAWFORD

### AUBURN

DE LANDON JACKSON  
 DT CAM BALL  
 DT ERIC GREGORY  
 DE TRAJAN JEFFCOAT  
 LB JAHEIM THOMAS  
 LB CHRIS PAUL JR.  
 CB DWIGHT MCGLOTHERN  
 S HUDSON CLARK  
 S JAYDEN JOHNSON  
 CB JAYLON BRAXTON  
 NB LORANDO JOHNSON

QB PAYTON THORNE  
 RB JARQUEZ HUNTER  
 WR JA'VARRIUS JOHNSON  
 WR CALEB BURTON III  
 TE JAKE FROMM  
 TE RIVALDO FAIRWEATHER  
 LT DILLON WADE  
 LG GUNNER BRITTON  
 C CONNOR LEW  
 RG KAM STUTTS  
 RT IZAVION MILLER

DE KELDRIC FAULK  
 NT JUSTIN ROGERS  
 DE MARCUS HARRIS  
 JACKJALEN MCLEOD  
 MLB AUSTIN KEYS  
 WLB EUGENE ASANTE  
 FCB D.J. JAMES  
 STARKEIONTE SCOTT  
 FS JAYLIN SIMPSON  
 WS ZION PUCKETT  
 CBB NEHEMIAH PRITCHETT



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## ARKANSAS QUOTES

### Sam Pittman, Arkansas Head Coach

#### Opening statement:

"Obviously Auburn played exceptional, we did not. We'll give them credit for playing really well. They were ready to play. I felt like we were through the week, coming off the week, we had a really good week of practice. But we got dominated today, and we've got to go back to work to figure out why."

#### On the difference from last week to this week ...

"We couldn't handle that edge on defense. We tried different things on defense, but any time they wanted to get on the edge, we couldn't handle the line. We didn't tackle well, we went back to going where the protection wasn't any good, you know, giving up five sacks. Couldn't run the ball, we got stymied running the football. Things that we did pretty well last week."

"I thought we had a really good week of practice and preparation, I felt really good going into the game. They jumped on us with the first drive, and then they held us. They came back with a punt, but we did the same thing with Florida last week and they came back, but we just... we never did. Didn't tackle well all game, didn't block well all game, and that's what happened. We haven't been in this situation, but we were in it today. We fought, we tried to get out of it, but we just never did."

#### On the early deficit in the first quarter ...

"Well you know, a lot of times you'll say that you get the momentum back, but we just never had it. You know what I mean? It was 7-0, then the punt, another three-and-out, then another drive for a touchdown. At some point you need somebody to make the play, and Nudie (Dwight McGlothern) made the play. And we go out there with three downs and kick a field goal. But they just physically whipped us in all phases of the game."

#### On the decision to put Jacolby Criswell in at QB ...

"Well, we're down 41-3 and KJ is getting the heck beat out of him out there, so obviously I wanted to look at Jacolby. I talked to KJ, and I thought (Jacolby) went in there and played really well. I thought he played like how he thought he would, like how he's been practicing and things of that nature. Bottom line is that there's seven minutes left in the third quarter and we're down 41-3, KJ was bloodied up and things and I wanted to see what Jacolby could do."

#### On the mentality post-bowl eligibility ...

"Yeah, I mean there was a lot of importance to win today, and that was one of them, to keep that alive, to get to Missouri, hopefully to get to Missouri with that opportunity. I think right now, we talked to them a bit afterwards, I think we'll see a little bit more of what we're made of."

"Are we gonna fight, are we gonna prepare, these types of things this week. I have no doubt that we will, but we've gotta get ready for FIU and I just don't think there's any way we won't be ready for them. I don't think we have a locker room problem, to be honest with you. We got our butt kicked today."

### Trajan Jeffcoat, Arkansas DE

#### On what happened today after the high of last week

"Honestly, we just got to do better as a defense. We already took a commitment after this to bounce back. We're just going to get in the film room. Get better and just take it from there."

#### On three straight losses at home and not playing better in front of the home crowd

"I mean it's definitely hard to lose here in front of the home crowd, but I mean we have to keep pushing. I believe in my teammates, so we're just going to keep pushing, and take everything one game at a time and just go up from here."

#### On what the motivation is after losing bowl eligibility

"Playing for each other. We just going to keep playing for each other. We're not going to lose hope. We love our teammates, everybody loves each other. We are just going to keep pushing."

#### On how tough it is when you get in a hole that big that fast. (21-0 deficit)

"The momentum for them was very strong, but we still held our heads high on the sideline. We didn't bicker amongst each other. We didn't point fingers. I mean we are a team."

### Isaac TeSlaa, Arkansas WR

#### Was it surprising to you that you guys were this flat after last week

"Yeah, I think we had high expectations, everyone did, especially after last week. We struggled executing what we were supposed to do. Now we have to move on and get ready for next week."

#### The team was 1 of 12 on 3rd down, what do you think the issues were with the third down struggles

"It's hard to convert on third down when it's always third-and-long. We struggled a lot on first and second down and setting ourselves up for short yardage plays on third down. We have to make sure we establish the run game and setting ourselves up on third down to go and convert."

#### Jacolby came in and had a big run and added a touchdown, can you talk about what he brought to the huddle

"We're happy for the kid. He's been the number two guy all year and it's cool to see when he gets his opportunity to go out there and execute, running and throwing the ball."



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## AUBURN QUOTES

### Hugh Freeze, Auburn Head Coach

#### Opening Statement

"I'm really, really proud of our young men and our staff. It's a game for bowl eligibility on the road, another SEC win. It's just something I'm really proud of and I'm just thankful. I thought we played almost a complete game against a team that I thought played their best last week, so I'm just really thrilled. There are a lot of highlights for sure. I'm sure y'all will ask me those and I'm just thankful and I'm thankful for our administration, our school [and] our fans that they'll be able to experience a bowl game somewhere. It's an exciting day for us."

#### Immediate aftermath of knowing the team is bowl eligible:

"I think it's huge. It's something that is truthfully, this is a bit selfish to say probably, but this staff and I and everywhere we've been, we've been able to do that in year one. I would like to keep that streak alive, and we have. More importantly for our seniors, for them to get to experience a bowl and represent Auburn, and then for the extra practices for our young kids. I thought it was an important step in us rebuilding."

#### On the defensive front's performance:

"I thought they made KJ [Jefferson] really uncomfortable from the start of the game. [They] really crushed the pocket. You know he's going to break a few out of there. He has done it against everybody, but I thought our defense played really, really, really good. When we had a turnover and held them to a field goal, that's a win, so I thought that was a big series in the game too."

### Payton Thorne, Auburn QB

#### On being bowl eligible in his first year at Auburn:

"Yes, that sixth win was an important one for us at this point of the season, and to put that away and do it on the road against a good team. They played good defense all year and I thought what we did today was good to see."

#### Key to getting off to a fast start in games:

"I think it's just coming in and being ready to play. I don't think we have changed anything in terms of our plan ... just execute. [We came] out there and executed the first few plays and got that first, first down and we were rolling, so we have to keep that up."

#### On clicking on all three phases of the game:

"It was fun. It's fun football. Our defense was outstanding, it was a ton of fun to watch them. Special teams has been money all year, and they were great again today. Our offense, we were able to get things going on the ground and through the air, and it was fun."

### Jalen McLeod, Auburn LB

#### The pass rush unit had a slow start to the season, but over the last month of the season have picked it up

"We have gotten ten times better, you can actually see it in the last 3-4 games actually. We have been getting home and it comes from preparation. We know that it starts in the trenches so if we win, they can't get the ball off and it helps the DBs, so it's really coming down to us and we know that. We are figuring it out and watching film together every day."

#### How tough was it to bring KJ Jefferson down?

"He about like 250? Yeah man it was tough man, but we are hungry, so it wasn't anything, it's just football."

#### What was it like to come into a stadium like that and be able to take the crowd out of the game like that?

"Yeah, you feel like a menace, you feel like a bad man. That was the second stadium takeover."

#### How important was it to get multiple people around the ball, whether that be KJ or the running back?

"It feels good, he had no pocket standing, he couldn't throw the ball, that's exactly what you want. The interior, the edge rushers, we all knew that was what we wanted."

### Marcus Harris, Auburn DL

"It was really fun, getting to do this on the road with this group of guys, it was fun. We are excited to do it next week at home."

#### What all went into your defense today?

"Just communication, locking in, and buying into the scheme coach Robins did this week. I feel like it was a great scheme for the defense, and we just locked in. Communicating was the biggest thing we were messing up, and we got guys that came back like Keionte, this game was very good for our defense."



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## AUBURN QUOTES

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### **Izavion Miller, Auburn OL**

"It felt good, worked all week on it in practice, to come out here and dominate like you know you are supposed to, it felt good.

"It's been good for me, I've been getting my weight up, getting stronger, I've just been working, and I think we've all been doing good."