



ARKANSAS

vs. TENNESSEE



14

OCTOBER 5, 2024

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM

19

GAME NOTES

- » Arkansas secured its first home win over a top-five opponent since defeating No. 3 Tennessee, 28-24, on Nov. 13, 1999. The win was the 10th home win over a top-five opponent and the fourth home win in Fayetteville over a top-five opponent. Previous top-five wins at home include No. 3 Tennessee (Fayetteville, 1998), No. 1 Texas (Fayetteville, 1981), No. 2 Texas (Little Rock, 1979), No. 2 Texas A&M (Little Rock, 1975), No. 5 USC (Little Rock, 1974), No. 1 Texas (Fayetteville, 1965), No. 5 Ole Miss (Little Rock, 1954), No. 4 Texas (Fayetteville, 1951), No. 5 Rice (Little Rock, 1946).
- » Arkansas is 4-2 for the first time since 2021 and has now beat six ranked FBS opponents in the Sam Pittman era.
- » The Razorbacks' first half shutout of the Volunteers was the first against a top-10 opponent in the first half at home since a 30-0 win against No. 8 Ole Miss on Nov. 22, 2014. It also marked the first time Arkansas had shutout three opponents in the first half of a season since 2014 when they accomplished the feat against Nicholls, LSU and Ole Miss. It marked the first time the Vols had been shutout in the first half during the Josh Heupel era (2020-present).
- » **WR Andrew Armstrong** has caught a pass in 33 consecutive games and has recorded multiple receptions in 28 straight games since his 2021 season at Texas A&M-Commerce.
- » The Hogs have now won four consecutive games (2011, 2015, 2020, 2024) against the Volunteers and have won each of the last four meetings between the two teams in Fayetteville (2006, 2011, 2020, 2024).
- » **RB Ja'Quinden Jackson** became the first Razorback to rush for a touchdown in six consecutive games since RB Knile Davis accomplished the feat in 2010.
- » **DL Eric Gregory** recorded a career-high 1.5 sacks. It was the first game in his career with multiple sacks. Gregory finished the night with four tackles.
- » Tonight's attendance of 75,573 was the sixth-largest in Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium history.
- » **WR Andrew Armstrong** became the fifth Razorback in program history to have a 100-yard receiving game against Tennessee and the first since Drew Morgan on Oct. 3, 2015. Armstrong finished the game with nine receptions for 132 yards, registering his fourth 100-yard receiving game as a Razorback.
- » Tonight's game was the first game in Fayetteville on ABC since a 13-6 loss to Alabama on Sept. 17, 1994.
- » Arkansas improved to 2-1 in SEC play for the first time under head coach Sam Pittman and the first time since 2011, when the Razorbacks, led by then-head coach Bobby Petrino, got off to a 2-1 SEC start before finishing 6-2 in league play and 11-2 overall.

WEATHER

84°
CLEAR

GAME INFO

CAPTAINS

Addison Nichols, Kyle Ramsey, Doneiko Slaughter, Anthony Switzer

COIN TOSS

Tennessee won the toss and elected to defer.

UNIFORMS

ARK - Red Helmet, Red Jersey, White Pants
Tennessee - White Helmet, White Jersey, Orange Pants

ATTENDANCE

75,573

ARK SCORING

FIELD GOAL | 1Q | 5:48

Kyle Ramsey 20-yard field goal

TOUCHDOWN | 3Q | 4:42

Ja'Quinden Jackson 2-yard touchdown rush

FIELD GOAL | 4Q | 12:16

Matthew Shipley 22-yard field goal

TOUCHDOWN | 4Q | 1:17

Malachi Singleton 11-yard touchdown rush

STARTERS

ARKANSAS

QB TAYLEN GREEN
RB JA'QUINDEN JACKSON
RB BRAYLEN RUSSELL
WR ANDREW ARMSTRONG
WR TYRONE BRODEN
TE LUKE HASZ
LT FERNANDO CARMONA JR
LG E'MARION HARRIS
C ADDISON NICHOLS
RG JOSH BRAUN
RT KEYSHAWN BLACKSTOCK

TENNESSEE

DE LANDON JACKSON
DT CAM BALL
DT ERIC GREGORY
LB STEPHEN DIX JR.
LB XAVIAN SOREY JR.
CB MARQUISE ROBINSON
S LARRY WORTH
S TJ METCALF
S JAYDEN JOHNSON
DB JAHEIM SINGLETARY
NB DONIEKO SLAUGHTER

QB NICO LAMALEAVA
RB DYLAN SAMSPON
WR DONT'E THORNTON JR.
WR BRU MCCOY
WR SQUIRREL WHITE
TE MILES KITSELMAN
LT LANCE HEARD
LG ANDREJ KARIC'
C COOPER MAYS
RG JAVONTEZ SPRAGGINS
RT JOHN CAMPBELL JR.

DL JAMES PEARCE JR.
DL ELIJAH SIMMONS
DL BRYSON EASON
DL DOMINIC BAILEY
LB ARION CARTER
LB KEENAN PILI
CB RICKY GIBSON III
CB JERMOD MCCOY
ST CHRISTIAN HARRISON
S WILL BROOKS
S ANDRE TURRENTINE



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ARKANSAS QUOTES

Sam Pittman, Arkansas Head Coach

Opening Statement:

"First of all, Tennessee had a very physical team and they came into the game No. 1 in offense and No. 1 in defense. They are a very good football team. Our coaches did a wonderful job of preparing our guys making them believe they could go win tonight."

On the team:

"These guys are happy, they're not surprised. If we have the same amount of turnovers we can play with anybody. In the 2 games that we've lost to this point, we've had more turnovers than what we got. Our coaches did a great job of making them believe we have a good football team and that we can compete and take care of the football and we tackle well and play smart and we did. We didn't score points there in the red zone in the first half then we scored touchdowns in the second half."

On the game plan and effort from players:

"A really good job by our coaches and once again our players. You get into coaching for moments like what just happened and its to see the kids and the smiles on their faces and the hard work they do, there's a lot of teams that can't get to that feeling and we did tonight. If y'all care, it was a one-score game, y'all might want to write about that too. Go Hogs."

On the atmosphere:

"The fans won the game for us. There were four offsides penalties and I think it was the sixth-largest crowd at the University of Arkansas. Our fans got us four false starts. Our atmosphere was like any of the elite university football programs and no one had anything on us today. This was a big, big, big-time atmosphere for college football and the fans made it happen for us and we appreciate it."

The decision on Taylen after he went down:

"Our diagnosis for him was to get back in the game to see what he could do for us. As of now, it is to be looked at. We chose to put Malachi in and need to give him some confidence. He ran the ball very well and scored the touchdown to go ahead there. He's been here a long time and hasn't gotten to play. I'm really happy for him."

On the first half shutout:

"The game plan came in Sunday night. Coach Williams talked about what he wanted to do and we started practicing it on Monday. There were some tweaks but we ran something that they had not seen us run, first of all. Second of all, we ran it really well. We weren't going to let them get behind us if we could help it."

On the defensive game plan:

"We were really worried about stopping the run but we always had the edge covered because we were bringing corners off a read run and the field linebacker off a read run. We mixed it up so we had a little bit of the odd front and a four-man front to mix it up. We brought total zero blitz and heat. I just thought Travis [Williams] did a wonderful job of calling the defensive game and getting the kids to stop this very high-powered offense."

Eric Gregory, Arkansas DL

On the game and defensive performance:

"It was big for us. We just wanted to go out and give our best. We knew the numbers that they put up in previous games. Coach just challenged us to have the mindset to go out there and dominate. We just wanted to try to get pressure on them and make them real uncomfortable."

On the game plan:

"We embraced it. We know T-Will (Arkansas DC Travis Williams) is going to dial up a lot of great defensive schemes. For me it is not really new for me because when I first got here we were running razor. It was like my second nature. It really was not too big of a scheme to learn. We trust T-Will and his scheme."

Andrew Armstrong, Arkansas WR

On focus this week leading up to the game:

"Our team has never put their head down. We came in on Sunday and focused and continued practicing this week... We just finished."

On Taylen message to the team when leaving the game:

"He told us to go out there and finish the game. We are still the same team, and we just needed to finish out the game."

Malachi Singleton, Arkansas QB

On what helped offensively when he was in the game:

"The screens are just a simple set to get me settled down. I had to take it one step at a time and stay calm. It was able to keep us rolling through the whole drive. I faked it left."

On QB Taylen's impact after he exited the game:

"He helps me with everything. Everytime I came off the field he was coaching me and giving me pointers. Telling me to settle down, we got this, we got all the confidence in the world. I love that boy right there."

Doneiko Slaughter, Arkansas DB

On the game:

"It was huge. We beat the No. 4 team in the country we just made history in Arkansas forever."

On defensive gameplan:

"We just kept the top on the defense and pressured them and made them uncomfortable. Them big boys will get the job done every time."



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TENNESSEE QUOTES

Josh Heupel, Tennessee Head Coach

Opening Statement:

"Disappointing night for us as a football team, I didn't think we handled, or started fast. Didn't do the ordinary things at a high level. Offensively, hurt ourselves consistently there in the first half. They were able to extend some drives, some third-down conversions. End of the day, starting with me, it wasn't good enough tonight. And between all three phases, we've got to find a way to be on the right side of the scoreboard. And we got to get better. So at this point you got an opportunity to come together, pull harder, fight stronger, play for each other and continue to grow. Still a lot out there, obviously, as everybody sees. But the main thing is we got to continue to get better."

Issues with Tennessee offense:

"I mean, just early we find a way to get ourselves behind the chains early. You look at the first three drives, there was something that really hurt us. Man downfield, false start, holding, whatever it might've been. So you do that, you put their time of possession together and all of a sudden you're looking at the scoreboard the way it was at the end of the first half. We got to play smarter, we got to play better up front. We got to play better with our skill players on the perimeter and we got to play better at quarterback. But again, it starts with me. We got all get better."

Did Tennessee let Arkansas score on final play of its go ahead touchdown drive:

"Yeah, at the very end of it, just with the clock timeout situations that we had trying to give ourselves a chance to go answer."

Tennessee's final snap, what the right play was for Nico Iamaleava:

"It's a full concept read. He ended up scrambling off of it. End of the day, in that scenario, you got to get the ball up and give one of your guys an opportunity to go make a play. Nico, just like me, and just like our football team, wishes that we had played better. That situation, you can't, keep the ball in your hands. You want to give somebody an opportunity to go make a play. He's disappointed with it, but he's got to come back and bounce back from it. He's played way too good not to respond the right way. And I know he will."

Heupel's message to the team after the loss:

"Man, pretty simple. When moments like this happen, the outside world's going to have a narrative for you. We talk about it when it's going good, and tonight it didn't go good. You got to look at your teammates in the eye. Those are the opinions that matter. You got to continue to pull the rope harder. We got to continue to grow. Good teams get better throughout the course of the year. Still have a chance to be a really good football team."

Dylan Sampson, Tennessee RB

Challenges that Arkansas gave you with their defense:

"Kind of came out and played a 3-3 Star defense, they didn't show too much of that on film. They came out and played hard, they play with a lot of intensity, the box was doing a good job, running good blitzes and stunts, we were also hurting ourselves."

How do you regroup this team:

"We are in a time where you can't count anyone out, this league is very competitive, but you just have to find a way to just bring everyone close, you can't let people start pulling away from each other. If you look at some of our actions during the bye week, some were lackadaisical, taking things for granted. I told the team already in the locker room, we can't take those things for granted, we can't just flip the switch on. Every time we go out there, on the practice field, in the meeting room, we need to have great attention to detail."

Keenan Pili, Tennessee LB

Was it a tired defense at the end of the game:

"No, but we got to learn how to get off the field quicker, stop beating ourselves, and dragging out those drives and get the ball back to our offense at the end of the day. That would have helped a lot if we did that."

How would you describe tonight:

"I think there is kind of two sides that I saw from the team. Adversity struck so we had to stay together, and we had to make some plays. Our offense had a chance at the end of the game, and I saw a lot of guys that believed they could score, believed they could do it. Obviously we didn't get the result that we wanted and that is okay, but I liked how our team responded to the adversity even though it wasn't what we wanted."

Nico Iamaleava, Tennessee QB

How different of a look did Arkansas give you on defense than what you expected:

"A lot different looks, that's what we get every week. We got to do a better job of adjusting to that. They went a lot of 3 down, a lot of 4 down, but yeah we have to do a better job of adjusting to it."

What were the biggest issues for the offense in the first half:

"We have to play cleaner, started too many drives off penalties, false starts, holding calls, any big play we had it was a penalty. We gotta do a better job of playing cleaner, especially in road environments."