



ARKANSAS

vs. ALABAMA A&M



7

AUGUST 30, 2025

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM

52

GAME NOTES

- » After winning their inaugural matchup with Alabama A&M, the Razorbacks are now 104-24-4 all-time in season openers. Arkansas owns a 107-21-4 all-time record in home openers. Head Coach Sam Pittman has won five consecutive home openers and is 5-1 in openers during his tenure leading the Razorbacks.
- » The Razorbacks' 186 consecutive extra-points made streak, which began on Dec. 5, 2020, is the third-longest such streak nationally based on date, behind Northwestern (Oct. 24, 2020) and Texas A&M (Nov. 7, 2020).
- » **QB Taylen Green** set a career high with six passing touchdowns while completing 24-31 passes for 322 yards. His six passing touchdowns were the most in a single game since 2015 and tied for the second most in program history. He joins Brandon Allen (2015) as the only Arkansas quarterbacks in program history to throw for 6+ touchdowns in a single game. It marked the fifth 300+ yard passing performance in Green's career. He also became the first Arkansas QB to pass for 300+ yards in consecutive games since Nick Starkel in 2019.
- » **QB Taylen Green** completed 77.42 percent (24-31) of his passes during the victory. His 77.42 percent completion percentage was the best by an Arkansas quarterback since 1998 with 24 or more completions in a game.
- » **WR O'Mega Blake** recorded his fourth career 100+ yard receiving game by hauling in seven passes for 121 yards. He became the first Arkansas WR to register 100+ yards in a season opener since Treylon Burks (7 rec, 102 yds) accomplished the feat on Sept. 26, 2020, against No. 4 Georgia.
- » **WR Jalen Brown** registered his first career receiving TD on a five-yard pass from Taylen Green with 2:12 on the clock in the second quarter.
- » Arkansas tied a program record with seven touchdown passes during the victory, matching the seven passing TDs against Mississippi State on Nov. 21, 2015. Arkansas also had six different players catch a touchdown pass, which is the most in a single game in program history.
- » **WR Raylen Sharpe** has caught at least one pass in 30 consecutive games dating back to Sept. 24, 2022, while at Missouri State. Entering the game, he had the fifth-longest reception streak in the nation. Sharpe hauled in his first TD reception as a Hog on a 35-yard pass from Taylen Green in the second quarter.
- » For the third consecutive season, Arkansas scored on its opening drive, this time courtesy of a 16-yard pass from QB Taylen Green to WR CJ Brown with 10:03 on the clock in the first quarter. It marked the first time since 2002-2004 that the Razorbacks scored on the opening drive of the season in three straight years. Additionally, it marked Brown's first career TD reception and Green's 16th career TD pass as a Razorback.
- » **K Scott Starzyk** connected on his first collegiate field goal attempt from 53 yards out with 3:37 on the clock in the first quarter. His 53-yard field goal was the longest by an Arkansas freshman in program history. It marked the fifth consecutive season a Razorback has made a field goal of 50+ yards. It was the 40th field goal of 50+ yards in program history, while Starzyk was the 12th Razorback to accomplish the feat.

STARTERS

ARKANSAS

QB TAYLEN GREEN
RB MIKE WASHINGTON JR.
WR O'MEGA BLAKE
WR JALEN BROWN
TE JADEN PLATT
TE ROHAN JONES
LT COREY ROBINSON II
LG FERNANDO CARMONA JR
C CADEN KITLER
RG KOBE BRANHAM
RT E'MARION HARRIS

ALABAMA A&M

DE QUINCY RHODES JR.
DT CAM BALL
DT IAN GEFFRARD
DE CHARLIE COLLINS
LB STEPHEN DIX JR.
LB XAVIAN SOREY JR.
CB JULIAN NEAL
S MIGUEL MITCHELL
S LARRY WORTH
CB KANI WALKER
NB JORDAN YOUNG

QB CORNELIUS BROWN IV
RB MAURICE EDWARDS
WR JORDAN CHAMBERS SMITH
WR FRANCK PIERRE
TE DONOVAN PAYNE
TE TRAVAUNTA ABNER
OL TYQUEZ RICHARDSON
OL BJ MAXENA
OL ELIAS CLOY
OL RAMIER LEWIS
OL BRUCE CRENSHAW

DL KYLON ROBERTS
DL XZAVIER BOOKER
DL NICK GLENN
DL WILBURN SMALLWOOD
LB TERVAE WILLIAMS
LB DIMITRIS BIAMBY
DB DELBERT MAYBERRY
DB JOSHUA BLEDSOE
DB JEREMIAH HUDSON-DAVIS
DB KALEB BROWN
DB ROBERT IVERSON

WEATHER

82°
SUNNY

GAME INFO

CAPTAINS

Fernando Carmona, Taylen Green, Cam Ball, Xavian Sorey, Devin Bale, Ashton Ngo

COIN TOSS

Arkansas won the toss and elected to receive.

UNIFORMS

ARK - Red Helmet, Red Jersey, White Pants
AAMU - White Helmet, White Jersey, White Pants

ATTENDANCE

70,827

ARK SCORING

TOUCHDOWN | 1Q | 10:03

Green to CJ Brown 16-yard pass

FIELD GOAL | 1Q | 3:37

Scott Starzyk 53-yard FG

TOUCHDOWN | 2Q | 13:41

Green to Sharpe 35-yard pass

TOUCHDOWN | 2Q | 2:12

Green to J. Brown 5-yard pass

TOUCHDOWN | 2Q | 0:06

Green to Blake 6-yard pass

TOUCHDOWN | 3Q | 11:07

Green to CJ Brown 14-yard pass

TOUCHDOWN | 3Q | 2:53

Green to Paaske 5-yard pass

TOUCHDOWN | 4Q | 13:51

Jackson to Washington 27-yard pass



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ARKANSAS QUOTES

Sam Pittman, Arkansas Head Coach

Opening Statement:

"It's a good win. We started off slow defensively. We certainly had some mental errors there and they had a good game plan coming in. But we had some mental errors and some gap problems in the run. They turned the tight end loose a couple of times. He got open one more time on us then we got it fixed and played pretty good defense the rest of the game. Offensively, we threw seven touchdown passes, I think, and Taylen [Green] did a good job of avoiding pressures. Some of them were simple twist games that we had pressures on, some of them where they brought one more than we could protect. We've got to get better there, but I was proud that we were able to throw the ball to different people and get them involved. I think that's going to help us in the future with those guys getting some confidence. A lot of different kids scored touchdowns. I was happy to see C.J. Brown score touchdowns with the hardships he's gone through. It was great to see [Scott] Starczyk come in and kick a 53-yard field goal on his first kick as a Razorback. I thought our special teams played well."

On Taylen Green's day:

"One, we were turnover-free. That's big. So he took care of the football and he was smart, throwing and running. Once he got out, he understood where first downs were, whether he needed to throw or he could run to get it. I thought he had good command over the huddle and over the offense all day. He distributed the ball to several different people. He came out healthy and I was really pleased with his game. We just got to protect him. We knew they were going to blitz the heck out of us and they did. We've just got to get better protection around him."

On the defense:

"It's one game. I was more concerned about the missed assignments that we were having. That wasn't necessarily the case in the scrimmages. I think if we don't miss assignments, we would be in pretty good shape, but we did. Therefore, we got in trouble. That first drive was nasty; it was terrible, but after that, for the most part, they came back. But we'll address that and know exactly why they went down the field and scored on us but in my mind right now it's about mental errors."

"After the first drive, we changed up our coverages some and I think we covered them tighter. There was some non-contested balls early but, after that, I think almost every ball thrown was contested. I think the guys back there [the secondary] came up and were physical as well."

On O'Mega Blake's day:

"Seven balls for 121 yards. I don't know if you can sustain that, but I'd like him to. He played extremely hard. He went in there and got us a first down when it looked like he could've been short. O'Mega's a tough guy and he likes to play football. Did I want him to do that? Yes. Did I know he could do that? Yes. We'll expect it every week."

On looking ahead to the road games:

"Arkansas State is an in-state opponent. It's not a rivalry because we've never played it before, but it's easier to get our guys up for it. It will be easier for our guys to have a really good practice. I think each one has motivational things to them, against Arkansas State, at Ole Miss and at Memphis. I'm sure we'll be ready to play."

Cam Ball, Arkansas DL

On first the defensive series:

"You know, it could have been a better start. It kind of took us to get punched in the mouth on that first drive to realize, wake up and see what was going on. But after that, we had a talk with each other, had talks with our coaches, and we came out and dominated the rest of the game."

On defensive adjustments in second half:

"I'm just proud of how we had multiple three-and-outs and how we bulled up. We took the play calling and we came out [of the second half] and finished the game how we're supposed to. So, all we have to do is a lot of self-evaluating."

On defensive hunger and teammate communications:

"There was a lot of moments, because we made some good plays, but we left a lot on the field man. We're going to see more of it on tape, but we know what the standard is. We know that even though we won, that wasn't our standard. There's always room for improvement. We've got to polish everything so we can play a complete game. That wasn't a complete game out there, defensively." get to the sideline. We have iPads now, so we can watch the previous plays right there on the field. And that's when you see whether I messed up or was out of my gap."



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ARKANSAS QUOTES

Xavian Sorey Jr. Arkansas LB

On being unprepared for the opposing offensive scheme early on:

"We know it's the first game of the season, but it's still football, we just have to do our job and that's it."

On missed assignments:

"Right after the play happens, sometimes you know you messed up and sometimes you don't. Sometimes you think you did the right thing until you get to the sideline. We have iPads now, so we can watch the previous plays right there on the field. And that's when you see whether I messed up or was out of my gap."

On leadership amongst the defensive group:

"Yeah, I think with our defense, we all kind of do, first level, second level, third level. There are guys on each level that lead us."

Taylen Green, Arkansas QB

On your new wide receivers this season:

"First off I want to give praise to my Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Everybody's been talking about there's versatility of the receiver room. I was just showcasing the ball in their hands and their play-making ability. I just got to do my job and give them opportunity and they're gonna you know do the rest."

On the WRs and Playing the first game:

Honestly, it was the preseason work, but being antsy to be back out there in front of the fans with my with my brothers. (It was good) to be out there live and not having a black jersey on."

On the hamstring:

"Just cramping. I haven't been live with the bullets flying since the bowl game. With the 3:15 kickoff, I've got to do a better job of hydrating and getting my body right."

On the six passes, touchdown passes today, did you have a favorite?

"I don't really have a favorite, really. All touchdowns, I'm grateful for. You know that's really our mindset; it's to score every single time we uh touch the ball. I would say was a pretty cool experience and celebrate in the back of the endzone."

O'Mega Blake, Arkansas WR

On yards after the catch:

"Hearing it everyday from Coach Petrino. Also I'm self-motivated< just wanting to get the extra yards. That's really all to it."

On execution:

"It just goes back to us, training, getting a extra reps at practice and watching film. I just feel like I have to make it correct so we don't hear Coach Petrino's at the end of the day."

CJ Brown, Arkansas WR

How good was today not only just you know what's going on with you know, your father and everything, but also you know, your first kind of huge contribution here at Arkansas?

"You know, it's good. I think it's the best for my mom, and my family. You know my mom was seeing me go out there and score touchdowns, and Taylen was able to give me the ball today. You know he made great plays too, I mean great plays."

You and Coach Pittman kinda shared a hug after that second touchdown. What, what was said between you guys?

"Coach Pittman was there through every step of the way of my father. You know he almost had to force me to go see my father cause I know like my dad wanted me to be at practice always, if any of y'all knew my dad, he wanted me to be at practice. So, Coach Pittman pulled me aside when it was all going on and told me that I need to go and they're going to take me this afternoon. So, that moment we shared, he just hugged me and I told him I'm doing it for my pops, and he was like you know you are. So that was all that was."

How much have you and Jay kinda leaned on each other during this time?

"Not only Jay but my other two sisters. I mean, me being the only boy they're going to look up to me and just naturally being there, being strong for them, and strong for my mother as well. I think we've leaned on each other a lot."

Your dad's big on the SCA on the board, how much comfort does that give you?

"A lot. I mean my dad touched a lot of people. He's a great man and I'm going to keep his legacy alive until the day I die."



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ALABAMA A&M QUOTES

Sam Shade, Alabama A&M Head Coach

Opening Statement:

"First off, just want to say much respect for Arkansas and that team. Coach Pittman and that staff, man they do a great job. I think our guys came into the ball game excited to play and excited to be on this SEC stage, and really came out and played hard. We had a couple plays that didn't go our way early that really kind of turned in their favor, so we've got some things we've gotta learn from. We were feeling good early. They've got a good offense, Taylen Green, their quarterback, he really makes them go. He gave us a hard time containing him and I think he's an NFL quarterback."

On the opening drive:

"I just like the fact that we were executing. Everybody was doing their job. You know, there wasn't any type of secrets that we had or anything. We just were executing. Our coaching staff did a good job. Obviously, the first ball game, we're going to know a lot about them. They're going to know a lot about us. So there were some things that we felt like we could capitalize on, and the players executed. But after that we kind of started shooting ourselves in the foot a little bit. You know, we had the big pass to one of our receivers - actually to our tight end early on, and he gets in a good field position, but we get a block in the back on one of our receivers. So same thing, we just kept shooting ourselves in the foot."

On Arkansas' defensive adjustments:

"Well, I can't say. We saw a whole lot of adjustments because we tried to keep them off balance a little bit. As far as our offense, you know, we tried not to stay doing the same things, because we look at football kind of like war. If you stay where you are, sooner or later, it's gonna blow you up. So we try to keep them off balance a little bit. We just had some plays where we just didn't execute."

On their run defense:

"Well, we would have liked to limit them a little bit more. I thought they kind of got it going a little bit in the second half at times. I thought Mike Washington, he had some pretty good runs on first down, things like that. They kind of got us into some second and short situations at times that. (They) just made it hard for us to manage defensively."

Takeaways from his first game as HC:

"I thought the adjustment was smooth. We got a veteran coaching staff, we really do. We've got guys that have been coaching a long time. You know, one of the issues is we played a lot of young players. I looked out there a couple times. We had three true freshman wide receivers in the game, #12, #14, and #15. And then you look on defense, we played a lot of guys that really hadn't played a lot of college football. So, it was good for us. The scoreboard didn't go the way we wanted it to go, but I'm one of those guys that try to watch the way our guys play, how we played together, when the adversity and the negatives happened in the game, I felt like we stayed together. We stayed focused. We stayed focused on the mission, and the mission was to go out and play the best football game that we could play."

Wyatt Wright, Alabama A&M LB

On Arkansas coaches after the game:

"They were saying just the potential we got. I feel like this game is more so about earning respect and it was a challenge from the jump. A lot of people just go in there expecting for a whipping. I feel like a lot of our team see it as a challenge to show who we are. A lot of these guys just got here. I just got here July 28th. So, I really have just had a month to really get to know these guys. But everybody is on the same page when it comes to just showing the world what we can do. I feel like we earned their respect, so they were just coming to say we have a lot of potential and saying, 'you guys are going to be a good team.' We just trust what Coach Shade is telling you to do."

On Your Sacks:

"That first one was the third down, that's that money down. (Coach) called that blitz. I got him and he had bumped down a little bit, but he stayed in that block and I just rolled him in. That other one, was maybe third down too. I just got a good angle on him. It was lined up perfectly and it just cleared it up for me to make the guard turn his hip. It was just open for me."

On Arkansas Spreading the Ball to Several WR:

"I feel like they got a lot of threats. They definitely got some weapons. When it comes to size and ability. My guys wanted that challenge because they wanted to see how good they could be. They obviously had a couple of explosive plays and they got a couple plays on us that broke up coverages. I feel like they really just have some weapons. Taylen Green - all those boys - I respect all of them."

What makes Taylen Green so effective:

"Being so versatile like that. It's not a lot of the time you see a 6'6 guy running around and throwing it. So, he's very universal. He keeps his composure with the whole game, but that's the type of guys you need to lead your type of team. They've got a good leader on their side to really hold them up and lead them in the right direction."



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ALABAMA A&M QUOTES

Cornelius Brown IV, Alabama A&M QB

What'd you see from them defensively and them being an SEC team:

"We try not to let external factors get in the way of what's important for us. There are three non-negotiables that we live by. Effort, that's a non-negotiable. Assignment, that's non-negotiable. Energy, that's non-negotiable. I think we handled those things well today. You know they've got a big defensive front. Those guys get after the passer there and they've got some size up front that we won't see as much of going down the road. We tried to get double teams on him all night that freed up some pass rushers. But, only getting sacked two times in four quarters of football against an SEC defensive front, I think that's a good thing.

"I was able to get a couple explosive plays in; 26-yards was the longest pass to Tra Abner. We learned a lot about ourselves as an offense, as a team. We had to come out there and score on the first drive of the football game. And that's always a plus. We talked about starting fast. Sometimes our defense will get after us early off in practice, but we started fast today. I think we were able to move the ball well. There's a lot to take away from today's game. I mean, 105 yards rushing, 106 yards passing. I think that's pretty good. Not where we want to be, (we've) got to clean some things up. But, I think we did a lot of good things to build upon today."