

Arkansas State falls short by a point against Louisiana

KADIN WALKER

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The A-State Red Wolves fell to the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns with a score of 28-27. This marks A-State's sixth straight loss and third straight loss at home. First-year Red Wolves' head coach Butch Jones is still searching for his first Sun Belt Conference win with five games left in the season.

Despite the loss, A-State had their best defensive performance since week 1, when they held the Central Arkansas Bears to 21 points. The Red Wolves didn't allow a single point in the first quarter.

The offense, now led by sophomore quarterback Layne Hatcher, couldn't capitalize on the strong start from the defense, as they also failed to score until the second quarter.

A-State was finally able to strike first with just under six minutes left in the first half. Hatcher found freshman wide receiver Corey Rucker for a six yard touchdown pass. This touchdown concluded a 13 play drive in which the Red Wolves drove 94 yards down the field.

The Ragin' Cajuns responded almost immediately, as it only took one play for freshman running back Montrell Johnson to score a 99 yard rushing touchdown. This play was the start of a back and forth offensive struggle for the lead.

The Red Wolf defense has now allowed 99 yard touchdowns in back-to-back home games.

"You have to not lose a game before you can win a game. This game could've arguably come down to four or six plays that make the difference between winning and losing. You never know which four to six plays they are. That's why you have to play every play to the best of your ability," Jones said.

A-State took the lead once again with a 32-yard field goal made by junior kicker Blake Grupe.

Once again, Louisiana re-

sponded to the A-State score with a touchdown on their next drive. This score capped off an 80 yard drive that left only 28 seconds left in the first half.

The Red Wolf offense did attempt to drive down the field, but were not successful. Time expired in the first half with the Ragin' Cajuns holding a 14-10 lead over the Red Wolves.

A-State started the second half with the football, looking to regain the lead.

It took only two plays for the offense to accomplish this goal, as Hatcher connected with junior wide receiver Te'Vailance Hunt for a 76 yard touchdown. Grupe then made the point after touchdown kick to put the red wolves up 17-14.

Louisiana responded quickly once again, taking only five plays to reclaim the lead with a three yard touchdown run by Johnson.

On A-State's next drive, the offense went three and out before punting the ball back to the Ragin' Cajuns. Freshman cornerback Taylon Doss then forced a fumble, giving the ball back to Hatcher and the A-State offense.

Hatcher drove the team 51 yards in just three plays with three straight completions. His third completion was a 15 yard touchdown to freshman tight end Emmanuel Stevenson, giving A-State a 24-21 lead.

The A-State defense then forced another timely turnover, with an interception by freshman cornerback Kenneth Harris. Harris returned this interception 35 yards to Louisiana's 30 yard line, putting the Red Wolves in field goal range.

The offense then staggered, only driving the ball 12 yards further and settling for a field goal. Grupe made the kick and extended the lead to 27-21.

The Ragin' Cajuns continued their trend of responding to A-State's scores with quick touchdowns, as sophomore running back Chris Smith took a 74 yard run to the house on the second play



Photo by: Hannah Risker | Photo Editor

Arkansas State lost to the Ragin' Cajuns with a score of 28-27.

of the drive. This touchdown gave Louisiana a 28-27 lead.

A-State's offense then punted on their next two drives, allowing Louisiana to get the ball back and milk the clock to end the game.

Hatcher finished the game with 300 passing yards and three touchdown passes on 31 attempts. Hatcher also finished the game with zero interceptions. Despite Hatcher's three touchdown performance, he was more focused on the outcome of the game.

"If you're a competitor, and you really love a team and it's not about you, you just want to win games. Whether that means I'm a water boy or throwing touchdowns, I just want to win games," Hatcher said.

Hunt led the Red Wolves with 83 receiving yards and a touchdown.

Junior running back Johnnie Lang and freshman running back Lincoln Pare combined for 21 carries and 97 rushing yards. The offense ended the game with 113 total rushing yards. This rushing performance was only the second time A-State has rushed for over 100 yards all season.

"This last week was a big turning point in the season. I felt like everyone came together as a team. I thought that was the biggest difference, believing that we could beat anybody. Having that belief, swag and confidence," Pare said.

Defensively, A-State limited Louisiana's quarterback Levi Lewis to just 122 passing yards, no touchdowns and one interception on 20 passing attempts. A-State's struggles defending the run did continue. Allowing 424 total rush-

ing yards in this game alone, A-State now ranks dead last out of 130 Football Bowl Subdivisions (FBS) teams in rushing yards allowed per game. The Red Wolf defense is allowing over 290 yards per game and over seven yards per rushing attempt on the season.

A-State will return to action at South Alabama. Arkansas State is currently 1-6 with South Alabama at 4-3. A-State has not won a conference game yet.

A-State currently holds the all time record against South Alabama dating back to 2012. Last season the Jaguars won 38-31 at Jonesboro. If the Red Wolves win this game it would restart the 2 game winning streak the Jaguars currently have over A-State since the 2012 season.

What's Next:

Opponent: South Alabama

Kickoff: 4 p.m.

Where: Mobile, AL

Tune in: ESPN+



1-0 Loss for A-State



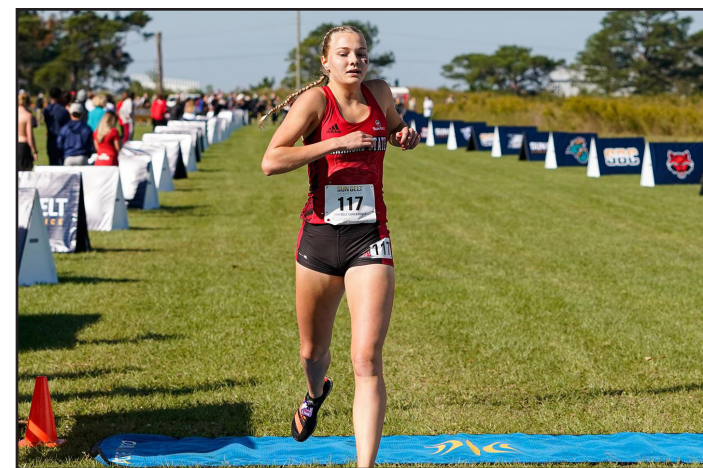
PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS Coastal Carolina beat Arkansas State in their regular season finale. Coastal Carolina scored in the 25th minute, the only goal of the game. A-State currently sits 10-5-2 overall and 7-2-1 in conference. This loss halted their two-game winning streak.

Arkansas State will play at the Sun Belt Conference Quarterfinal in Foley, AL, on Nov. 3 at 4 p.m.

Red Wolves earn both men's and women's SBC Runner of the Week



Arkansas State's Lexington Hilton was named the SBC Runner of the Week last Wednesday. Lexington Hilton's was the men's first Runner of the Week of this year. The last team member awarded was last season. Lexington Hilton is currently a school record holder in the 10,000m, Outdoor 5000m, Indoor 5000m. Hilton was also 2021 Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Champion, First team All-Sun Belt Conference and 2021 Second Team All-Sun Belt Conference (Indoor).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Arkansas State's Pauline Meyer was named the SBC Runner of the Week last Wednesday. This was Meyer's second straight time in the league. Meyers is currently a school record holder in 1500m, 3000m, the indoor mile, indoor 3000m and Distance Medley Relay. Meyer has also been a 2021 NCAA West Prelims Qualifier, 2021 First Team All-SBC as well as 2021 Sun Belt Conference Indoor Champion.

Arkansas State basketball team members placed on preseason All-Sunbelt teams

Norchad Omier, Marquis Eaton and Jireh Washington placed on preseason teams



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Jireh Washington placed on the second preseason All-SunBelt Conference team.

REBECCA ROBINSON SPORTS EDITOR

Basketball season is right around the corner for fans of the Red Wolves. Both Arkansas State teams' seasons are scheduled to start within the next couple of weeks. The women's team is scheduled to start in two weeks and the men's team starts in a week. Both teams had a member or two named to the 2021-22 preseason All-Sunbelt Conference teams.

Women's team

Jireh Washington, Red Wolves guard, was placed on

the second preseason All-SBC team. Washington missed the last half of the 2020-21 season due to injury. In the 11 games Washington played in, she averaged 11.4 points. Despite missing the last 11 games, she was still second on the team in steals and fourth in assists.

Last season, she matched her career-best with 24 points and seven boards at ULM. Washington only needs to score 173 points to become the 25th player in program history to score 1,000 points.

The women's team is set to play against Central Baptist College at a home game on

Nov. 9 as part of their non-conference slate. This school day game is part of the women's basketball, volleyball and men's basketball tripleheader.

Men's team

The men's team had two members placed on preseason All-SBC teams. Both Norchad Omier and Marquis Eaton were placed. Omier was named the 2021-22 Sun Belt Conference men's basketball preseason player of the year as well as being put on the All-SBC first team. Last season, Omier was also placed on the first All-SBC team. He also played for the Nicaragua National Team

in the Summer of 2021. Omier averaged 12.6 points a game.

Eaton was also placed on the second team. Eaton led the team with a 14.2 point average last season.

The men's season will officially start when they play against Blue Mountain College at a home game Nov. 1.



All-Tournament Honors



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Arkansas State's own Vanessa Noftsier, freshman, was named to the All-Tournament team. Noftsier was fifth out of all competing bowlers with 984 pinfall in the five traditional matches. The team finished third at the Bearcat Hammer Open.

A-State had a perfect 5-0 in traditional matches.

Traditional Matches

Arkansas State 876 - Central Missouri 846
Arkansas State 884 - Alabama A&M 704
Arkansas State 988 - McKendree 912
Arkansas State 998 - Maryville 924
Arkansas State 1,050 - Carthage 837

Tennis takes on ITA Regionals



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

The A-State tennis team traveled to Iowa City to begin competing at the ITA Regionals on Thursday.

ITA Regionals Results

Singles

Emily Surcey def Lucy Lu (Minnesota) 2-6, 7-5, 11-9
Emily Surcey def Brooke Covington (Omaha) 6-3, 6-3
Nejla Zukic lost to Malvika Shukla (Creighton) 3-6, 6-3, 2-10
Thea Rice def Kate Miley (Missouri State) 2-6, 6-3, 10-5
Thea Rice lost to Habiba Aly (South Dakota) 3-6, 6-7

Doubles

Zukic/Rice lost to Lagarde/Smagina (Kansas) 6-7 (4)
Roper/Surcey lost to Novak/Makoric (Nebraska) 4-6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Oct. 28

- Volleyball will play against Louisiana in Jonesboro at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 29

- Women's Tennis will compete at the Wofford Invite in Spartanburg, SC.

- Cross Country will compete at the Sun Belt Conference Championships in Mobile, AL.

Saturday, Oct. 30

- Women's Tennis will compete at day two of the Wofford Invite.

- Football will play South Alabama at 4 p.m.

- Volleyball will play against ULM in Jonesboro, AR, at 6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 31

- Women's Tennis will compete at day three of the Wofford Invite.

Monday, Nov. 1

- Men's basketball will play against Blue Mountain College in Jonesboro, AR, at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 3

- Women's Soccer will compete at the Sun Belt Conference Quarterfinal Sun Belt Conference Championship in Foley, AL, at 4 p.m.

