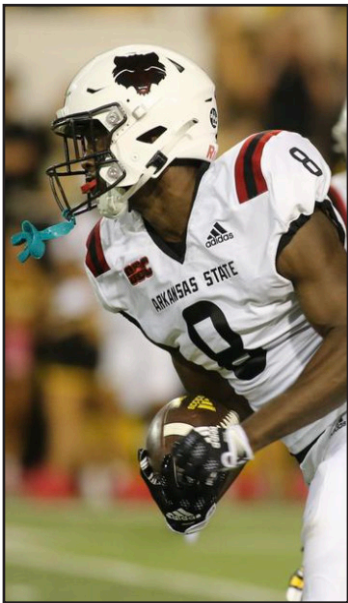


Football team loses in heartbreak fashion at Southern Miss



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Arkansas State offense celebrating a touchdown against James Madison.



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Junior Safety #8 Eddie Smith intercepting a pass against Southern Miss.

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

The Arkansas State Red Wolf football team up 19-7 in the fourth quarter ended in a 20-19 loss when Southern Miss scored 13 unanswered points.

Southern Miss running back Frank Gore Jr. had 19 carries, 96 rushing yards and a rushing touchdown. He is the son of former NFL running back Frank Gore. Gore Jr. scored his one and only rushing touchdown early in the fourth quarter, to minimize A-State's lead to 19-14. The other Southern Miss running back Janari Dean scored on a three-yard run, late in the fourth quarter to give the Golden Eagles a 20-19 lead.

The Red Wolves had one last chance to score with a little over two minutes left in

the game. They had two false penalties on their final drive, which resulted in a fourth and 27. A-State quarterback James Blackman launched the ball down the field, hoping for a receiver to come up with the football, which ended up being an incompleteness. Southern Miss would get the ball back, kneeling it out for the win.

The A-State offense continued their third down struggles, going 6-14. Their rushing game was essentially non-existent, as they only had 50 rushing yards. They also had 11 penalties for 90 yards.

The offensive line is still allowing James Blackman to get pressured play after play. He is always having to scramble away from defenders, trying his best not to get sacked.

"It is frustrating at times and

humbling at times. You can see how close we are to putting everything together. We have yet to put a complete game together on all three phases," Head Coach Butch Jones said.

The fourth quarter has been a struggle for this team all season long. Finishing games continues to be a struggle for this team as well. If the Red Wolves closed games out, their record would be a lot different.

"I thought heading into the fourth quarter, us not doing what we needed to do offensively, kind of hurt us. When you have to go on the road or any games, you have to close games out. All our losses, other than Ohio State, have been the same scenario. Sometimes you tense up in these situations. When somebody steps up in the game, it changes the whole game. It

only takes one play and/or one player. I believe in our players and our competitiveness," Butch Jones said.

James Blackman had an outstanding game going 25-34 (73.5 completion percentage), 236 passing yards and two passing touchdowns. He continued his success with completion percentage and making smart decisions with the football.

The Arkansas State receiving core was spread out by multiple receivers. The highlight of the receiving team was wide receiver Jeff Foreman, who had three receptions, 50 receiving yards and two receiving touchdowns. Wide receiver Champ Flemings had three receptions for 52 receiving yards. Tight end Seydou Traore had five receptions for 50 receiving yards.

Red Wolf kicker Dominic

Zvada stayed perfect on field goals, with a 31-yard field goal early in the second quarter.

The A-State defense gave up 345 total yards. They only gave up 177 passing yards, but allowed 168 rushing yards. The defense had two interceptions by safety Eddie Smith and cornerback Kenneth Harris. Smith now has two interceptions on the year, and most on the team. Defensive end Kivon Bennett got his second sack of the year.

The Red Wolves are now 2-5 overall and 1-3 in the Sun Belt Conference. They look to get back in the win column as they face Louisiana Lafayette in week eight. Lafayette is 3-3 on the season, and only ahead of Arkansas State by one ranking in the SBC West.

Schmidt and Pappas named Sun Belt Golfer of the Week



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Senior Olivia Schmidt following through a swing at the Lady Red Wolves Classic.

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

Women's golf player, Olivia Schmidt, posted a Sun Belt Conference all-time best 2-under par 54-hole total at the Lady Red Wolves Classic. Announced as Sun Belt Golfer of the Week.

Her performance was not only a Sun Belt Conference all-time best, but a school record as well, according to the NCAA Women's Golf record book maintained by Duke. She won her fourth career individual medalist honors to tie the program records.

Schmidt posted three consecutive rounds in the 60s, including a 5-under par 67 in the first round of the tournament. She won by four strokes. Schmidt also had two eagles and 12 birdies in the tournament. She also had four bogeys.

Men's golf player, Devyn Pappas, captured his first collegiate victory and was announced as Sun Belt Golfer of the Week.

He made a birdie on the last hole of the tournament, to win individual medalist honors and win the team title for the men's golf team. The

team was tied with Oklahoma Christian on the final hole, as Pappas got the par-four green. Oklahoma Christian got a bogey, then Pappas drained the putt to win individual honors and the team's victory.

He also had three consecutive rounds in the 60's. He won by six strokes over Christian Castillo of University of Arkansas and Anthony Delisanti of University of Valparaiso. Pappas closed out a 4-under par 68 to total 12-under par 204 at the tournament. His performance tied for the fifth-lowest 54-hole total in program history.

James Blackman Insight



PHOTO BY JESUS WENCES

Senior quarterback #1 James Blackman on the field before the game at Old Dominion.

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

Arkansas State quarterback James Blackman is looking to make an impact in his last year with the football team.

He spent 2017-2020 at Florida State University, where he tied for 10th in FSU's program history in touchdown passes, with 43. He was captain in 2019 and appeared in 12 games. In 2018 he only appeared in four games. 2017 was his best year, as he ranked third in the country by a first year in passing yards with 2,230 yards. He also threw for 19 passing touchdowns.

He played high school ball at Glades Central High School. Blackman was given a four-star rating from Rivals

and 247Sports. He was also rated the seventh best pro style quarterback and 29th best player in Florida by 247Sports. Blackman was also ranked 24th best quarterback in the nation by ESPN.

He was named Palm Beach Post All-Area First team and Sun Sentinel All-Palm Beach County First Team in 2016. He also had All-State honors in 2015 and 2016. He threw for over 2,000 yards and 24 passing touchdowns as a junior. Blackman was recruited by teams such as Florida State, Louisville, Miami, West Virginia and many more.

Through seven weeks of this season, he is 149-215 (69.3 completion percentage), 1,695 passing yards, 11 passing touchdowns and only

one interception. Blackman is a very disciplined quarterback who makes few mistakes. He has the third least amount of interceptions in the nation. He ranks 31st in passing yards, 51st in passing touchdowns and 53rd in quarterback rating (65.9). He is the leader of this football team, and rallies everyone together in good or bad situations.

"I am willing to do anything for the team. If it means passing, running and/or blocking. I also love handing the ball off to our backs and watching them do their thing. It gets me excited watching the backs, especially when they make a move on defenders. I try to replicate the backs and try making the same moves myself," Blackman said.

WHAT'S UP NEXT:

Opponent:
Louisiana Lafayette

Kickoff: Saturday
4 p.m.

Where: Cajun
Field in Lafayette,
Louisiana

Tune in: ESPN +

Sports Roundup:



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS
Sophomore Jacob Pyeatt racing at the Arturo Barrios Invitational.

Jacob Pyeatt earns top 10 finish

The cross country team opened up their season, with Jacob Pyeatt finishing ninth in the men's 8K at the Arturo Barrios Invitational at the Watts Cross Country Course. The men's team finished with a fourth-place finish. Pyeatt had a personal-best 24:03.3 for the Red Wolves. Arkansas State totaled 238 points. Ethan Mychajlonka was the second Red Wolf to finish in the men's race. He placed 29th with a time of 24:41.3. Rylan Brown placed 59th with a time of 24:54.0. Grayson Young placed 72nd with a time of 25:02.5. The women's team finished 11th out of 38 teams in their first 6K of the year. Jaybe Schfelberger had the best time for the women's team, placing 24th with a time of 21:11.4. Sophie Leathers placed 47th with a time of 21:43.8. First year Ann-Marie Braese finished with a time of 22:04.8.

Bowling team finishes third at Penguin Classic

The Arkansas State bowling team came back to beat Duquesne 4-2 and earn third place at the Penguin Classic, in their first tournament of the season. It was a great way to start the season as they finished 10-4, going 4-0 on Sunday. The Red Wolves defeated Walsh 980-793, Saint Francis 1,027-849 and Aurora 885-811 in the final three matches on Sunday. Sarah Sanes had 266 pins against Walsh and 255 against Saint Francis. Brooklyn Buchanan had game-high 193, leading Arkansas State in the final match against Aurora. Sanes had a total 1,721 pins in eight matches. She averaged 215.13 per match and received All-Tournament Team honors. Buchanan finished ninth in final standings with 1,642 pins and averaged 205.25 per match. A-State's next tournament is this weekend on the 21st-23rd in Fairview Heights at the Bearcat Open. The tournament will be hosted by McKendree.

Volleyball team continues losing streak at 14 games

Last Saturday, the Arkansas State volleyball team lost their 14th consecutive game. They lost 3-0 to Troy. A-State had six blocks and four aces. The weak factors were them getting held to a .129 hitting percentage by the Trojans. Troy hit .340 as a combined team effort. Macey Putt had the most kills for the Red Wolves with 13. Abby Harris led the team in blocks with three. Cassidy Reeves had 10 assists. Bailey Helzer had a team-high 10 digs along with two aces. The volleyball team will have a four-match on the road at Southern Miss on Friday and Saturday, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The first day will be at 6 p.m. and the second day will be at 2 p.m.

Men's Basketball season approaching

The men's basketball team is having their first scrimmage this Friday. Last year, they went 18-11 overall and 8-7 in the Sun Belt Conference. They look to reload this season and prove they are a contender in the SBC. Junior Guard #0 Caleb Fields was named to the preseason all-conference team. He started in all 29 games last year, averaging 7.3 points, 3.6 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 1.1 steals per game. Fields led the team in assists, with 128. He was also third on the team in steals, with 32. He ranked third in the league with his assists per game and total assists on the season. Fields will look to lead this Red Wolves basketball team this season. The team averaged 70.9 points per game, while allowing an average of 68.1 points per game. If they can clean up their defense, they will be a scary team this season. Assists seemed to be a strong suit for this A-State team last year, as they averaged 15.6 per game. They look to continue that stat line, or even improve it this season.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Oct. 20

- The soccer team travels to play against Old Dominion in Norfolk, Virginia at 6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 21

- The bowling team travels to compete in the Bearcat open in Fairview Heights, Illinois.

- Women's golf travels to the White Sands Bahamas Invitational in Paradise Island, Bahamas.

- The volleyball team travels to play against Southern Miss in Hattiesburg, Mississippi at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 22

- Women's golf travels to the White Sands Bahamas Invitational in Paradise Island, Bahamas.

- The bowling team travels to compete in the Bearcat open in Fairview Heights, Illinois.

- The volleyball team travels to play against Southern Miss in Hattiesburg, Mississippi at 2 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 23

- Women's golf travels to the White Sands Bahamas Invitational in Paradise Island, Bahamas.

- The bowling team travels to compete in the Bearcat open in Fairview Heights, Illinois.

- The soccer team plays at home against Southern Miss at noon.

Thursday, Oct. 27

- Men's golf travels to the White Sands Bahamas Invitational in Paradise Island, Bahamas.

Friday, Oct. 28

- Men's golf travels to the White Sands Bahamas Invitational in Paradise Island, Bahamas.

- The volleyball team travels to play against Texas State in San Marcos, Texas at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 29

- Men's golf travels to the White Sands Bahamas Invitational in Paradise Island, Bahamas.

- The volleyball team travels to play against Texas State in San Marcos, Texas at 1 p.m.



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS
Sophomore #3 Brooklyn Buchanan in a follow through at the Penguin Classic.



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS
First year right-side hitter #5 Abby Harris hitting the ball over the net in a home game against Troy.



PHOTO BY MEN'S BASKETBALL TWITTER @ASTATEMB