

Sports

Dominic Zvada's Unspoken Hot Start

BRAYDEN MORSE
SPORTS EDITOR

Dominic Zvada is still perfect with his field goal percentage, as he is 6-6 through four weeks. He had two career long field goals against Memphis, with both field goals being 46-yards. He is also 13-13 on extra point attempts. Zvada is tied for first in field goal percentage and extra point percentage in all of college football. Dominic's leg has been a savior for the Arkansas State University football team.



PHOTO BY JESSICA McMILLAN

Arkansas State Kicker, Dominic Zvada kicking a field goal against Grambling State.

What the Red Wolves can do to win on Homecoming

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SPORTS EDITOR

The Arkansas State University Red Wolves are currently 1-3, and 0-1 in the Sun Belt Conference. Last place in the SBC West. They are coming off of three straight losses. What can they do to overcome the losing streak and win on homecoming week?

Offensive Strengths

Starting off with the offense, give wide receiver Champ Flemings the football. Flemings was out last week, but he is back this week. He started the first two games with over 100 receiving yards. In week three against Memphis, he only had three receptions for seven yards. That will not cut it. Why not give your best receiver the ball more in a big game? Flemings is a play-maker who can stretch the field with his speed and shiftness. He had 105 receiving yards against one of the best teams in football, Ohio State. He is the key offensive component to win this week. Look for Flemings to have a big game.

Keep giving the ball to tight-end Seydou Traore. He is coming off a game with seven receptions and 81 receiving yards. Before that, he had six receptions, 120 receiving yards and one touchdown against Memphis. Traore's 6'4" frame allows him to go up for the ball and come down with it. He can be used as a reliable target on third down when they need to move the chains. Seydou can also surprise people with

big chunk plays every so often.

Quarterback James Blackman, has game changing speed. He is a reflection of quarterback Lamar Jackson for the Baltimore Ravens. Blackman has the strong arm plus the speed, just like Lamar Jackson. A lot of coaches worry about utilizing their quarterbacks in the run game, due to injury risks. It is understandable, but to win, he must be used in this capacity more. Set up more run option plays and plays designed for the quarterback to run.

The Red Wolves are averaging 32 points per game with 404.3 yards per game, heading into Homecoming week.

Offensive Weaknesses

Third down efficiency has been a major problem for Arkansas State. They are 22-62 on third downs thus far. With a third down percentage of 35.48 percent.

Penalties have also been a concern. A-State has had 27 penalties for a total of 247 yards. They are currently averaging 61 penalty yards per game. They had seven penalties for 60 yards last week against Old Dominion. The Red Wolf offense also had two turnovers in last week's game.

The prime example of penalties was against Memphis. Arkansas State had a chance to go ahead with a little over a minute left in the game, and back to back false start penalties were called. That is unacceptable in big games and drives.

Fixing the penalty situation will produce better offensive production and more scoring.

Defensive Strengths

Tackles for loss has been a main strength for the A-State defense, as they had nine last week. They have performed at least six tackles for loss per game.

The defensive front shut down the Old Dominion rushing game last week. They only allowed 51 rushing yards.

Defensive Weaknesses

Since week two, the Red Wolf secondary has allowed at least 279 passing yards. Opponents' offenses have been torching the secondary with big chunk plays. Go routes and post routes have been hurting the A-State secondary. More zone coverage will stop these big plays from happening.

Getting to the quarterback has also been a problem for this defense. Only nine sacks through four weeks. Allow more edge rushers to creep in, along with the linebackers blitzing.



PHOTO BY JESUS WENCES
Arkansas State Quarterback, James Blackman

2022 Sun Belt Standings

EAST	CONF	OVR
Coastal Carolina	1-0	4-0
James Madison	1-0	3-0
Old Dominion	1-0	2-2
Appalachian State	1-1	2-2
Georgia Southern	0-0	3-1
Marshall	0-1	2-2
Georgia State	0-1	0-4
WEST	CONF	OVR
UL Monroe	1-0	2-2
Troy	1-1	2-2
South Alabama	0-0	3-1
Southern Miss	0-0	2-2
Texas State	0-0	2-2
Louisiana	0-1	2-2
Arkansas State	0-1	1-3

GRAPHIC BY SHARLINE VANPELT

Legend:

There is the East Division and West Division in the Sun Belt Conference. Teams from top to bottom are in order from best to worst. "CONF" stands for conference. Those are the conference games each team has played. "OVR" stands for overall. Those are the total amount of games each team has played.

Arkansas State at Old Dominion Recap

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SPORTS EDITOR

The Arkansas State Red Wolves lost to the Old Dominion Monarchs, 29-26. This was Old Dominion's first conference win as a Sun Belt member.

The Monarchs' sophomore quarterback, Hayden Wolff, threw for 279 yards and two touchdowns in the win. Ali Jennings III, junior wide receiver, had four receptions, 140 yards and one touchdown for Old Dominion. Junior wide receiver, Jeff Foreman, had four receptions, 115 yards, including a 49-yard touchdown for Arkansas State. Arkansas State quarterback, James Blackman, threw his first interception of the year, with a pick-six for the Monarchs to take a 21-19 lead late in the third quarter.

Backup quarterback, AJ Mayer ran for a 23-yard touchdown for A-State to take a 26-21 fourth quarter lead. Wolff's last touchdown pass gave Old Dominion a 29-26 lead with 6:33 left in the game, along with a successful two-point conversion. The Red Wolves turned the ball over on downs on their next drive. Then, a Monarch punt would pin A-State on their own two-yard line with 1:09 remaining in the game. Arkansas State did not have enough time to drive down the field to tie the game or go ahead, as the clock ran out.

Tailgating Package for Both Home Games Against ULM and James Madison



PHOTO BY JESSICA McMILLAN

A special ticket and tailgating package will be offered at Centennial Bank Stadium to fans and donors for both home games against ULM this Saturday and James Madison, Saturday.

"Donors and fans can purchase four (4) tickets located in sections AA-FF (upper west), a tailgate plot located in Halsey Thrasher Harpole Tailgate City and a game-day parking pass - a \$315 value for just \$130. Simply visit the following link and enter the promo code TAILGATE. Scan the QR code," The Arkansas State Athletics website said.

"There is a limit of four (4) tickets and one tailgate plot per transaction. Space is limited for tailgate plots and will be available for each contest until sold out," The Arkansas State Athletics website said.




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PHOTO BY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM TWITTER: @ASTATEMB

The Arkansas State University men's basketball team is having their 5th annual Boots and Ballers event.



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS
A-State Guard, Caleb Fields



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS
Men's Basketball Head Coach, Mike Balado



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS
A basketball resting on the court.

Soccer's Latest Recap



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

The soccer team won this past Sunday against Troy, 2-1. Darby Stotts had two shots and one goal. Sarah Strong had one shot and one goal. Phoebe Harpole and Haley Husted both had assists. The Arkansas State University soccer team improves to 4-4-2 on the season, and 2-1-0 in the Sun Belt Conference. They will play their next game at Georgia Southern on Oct. 2 at 11 a.m.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, Oct. 8

- The football team will play at home against James Madison at 6 p.m. They will be televised on NFL Network.

Sunday, Oct. 9

- The soccer team will play at ULM Monroe, Louisiana at 11 a.m.

Monday, Oct. 10

- Women's golf will compete at home at Sage Meadows CC.
- Men's golf will compete at home at Ridge Pointe CC.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

- Women's golf will compete at home at Sage Meadows CC.
- Men's golf will compete at home at Ridge Pointe CC.

Friday, Oct. 14

- The volleyball team will play at home against Troy at 6 p.m.

- The bowling team will complete at the Penguin Classic in Struthers, Ohio.