

RED WOLVES WIN

Ground game moves A-State football past Stony Brook

COURTESY OF

ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Ja'Quez Cross rushed for a career-high 164 yards on 15 carries, as the Arkansas State football team defeated Stony Brook 31-7 Saturday night at Centennial Bank Stadium.

Cross' career night included two touchdowns as A-State (1-2) totaled 345 yards on the ground – its most since Nov. 29, 2014 (469 versus New Mexico State). The Red Wolves out-gained the Seawolves (0-3) 485-311 and owned a 24-14 advantage in first downs.

Zak Wallace added 57 yards on 10 attempts while Jaylen Raynor ran for 57 yards in his collegiate debut. Raynor also completed 4 of 6 passes for 78 yards and a touchdown pass to Courtney Jackson in the fourth quarter. Freshman Cedric Hawkins carried the ball six times for 52 yards in the second half.

Casey Case completed 21 of 33 pass attempts for 221 yards and a fourth-quarter touchdown to Rahmon Hart, Jr. Anthony Johnson was the Seawolves' leading receiver, hauling in nine passes for 127 yards.

The Red Wolves jumped out to a 17-0 lead within the first 10 minutes and held that lead at the half.



Photo by Kion Summers | Staff Photographer

The Red Wolves won 31-7 against Stony Brook Saturday. For more photos and videos from the game visit astatetheherald.com.

Dominic Zvada capped A-State's opening drive with a 22-yard field goal, and then Wallace plunged across for a 1-yard rushing touchdown to make it 10-0. Less than two minutes later, Cross dashed 66 yards for the score, giving the Scarlet and Black a three-score lead after the opening quarter.

Stony Brook threatened in the second quarter with a 35-yard field goal try, but the ball careened off the right upright to preserve the shutout.

A-State's defense forced three punts and a turnover on downs in the first half. The Seawolves were unable to convert three field-goal attempts in the third quarter, and a 5-yard score by Cross added seven more to A-State's tally, pushing the margin to 24-0 after three.

Raynor completed his first career touchdown pass early in the fourth quarter, hitting Jackson from 8 yards out to make it 31-0. The Seawolves scored their lone touchdown on

the ensuing drive when Case found Hart for an 11-yard strike.

What's Next:

- Game 4
- Opponent: Southern Miss
- Kickoff: 6 p.m.
- Where: Home

Red Wolves golfers confident after strong season opener



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

WILL LIVINGSTON

STAFF WRITER

The Arkansas State golf team has high expectations for this season after a strong performance in the Golfweek Fall Challenge in Pawleys Island, South Carolina, last weekend.

Hagen's team got off to a good start indeed, finishing the tournament 4th of 14 teams, ending the tournament with a team total at 36-under-par 828. In the individual rankings, sophomore Thomas Schmidt finished tied for first, ending the tournament golfing 17-under-par 199 and gaining his first collegiate tournament win in the process.

"The expectations are always pretty high with our program," said head coach Mike Hagen. "It was very nice to get off to the start we did this year... I was really excited about this group going into this year, and I think the expectations will stay the same going into this week with a possibility that if we play our best golf we have a chance to win this tournament."

Schmidt, a sports administration major hailing from western Germany, was enthusiastic about the win to say the least.

"This was basically one of the best tournaments I've played in my entire life, especially in tournament and college golf."

Schmidt also said that as good as he did here, he can still do better. "I think I can

do better than that, but I have to prove it first, so I'll just wait 'til the rest of the season." Schmidt also was awarded the Sun Belt Golfer of the Week.

Commenting on Schmidt's performance, Hagen said "Thomas I think is one of those guys that has a chance to be one of those guys that helps just rewrite the record books with the numbers he can shoot... obviously that bodes well and hopefully we can carry that over into this weekend and someone else can take that honor next week."

Schmidt wasn't the only Red Wolf to find success. Sophomore Chris Somerfield finished the tournament tied for 10th with 10-under par 206, and junior Anthony de Schutter finished at 18th with 6-under par 218.

The entire six-man team finished the tourney at or under par. Schmidt was nothing but praise for the entire team's skill, noting that he was the 5th man on the lineup.

"We've got a new roster. We've got four new guys on the team that are all playing great golf. There's not that much difference between the players that we have that good of a roster, so even though I won the tournament, it's understandable that I was set as the fifth guy in the lineup."

"When you do tell them that any of the individuals in our lineup have a chance to win each week, that proves it right there."

To buy or to not buy (out)



Head Football Coach Butch Jones' record with A-State is currently 5-20, dividing fans whether A-State will fire him. The debate often does not factor in what this buyout would cost Arkansas State Athletics.

Per Jones' contract should the university terminate without cause the university would pay liquidated damages equal to \$500,000 times the number of years (including prorated amount for partial years) for the remaining years of his contract.

Sixth annual Boots & Ballers date set

Boots & Ballers date has been set for Thursday, Oct. 26, at First National Bank Arena. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and will begin at 7.

The event will include a live silent auction, remarks from Head Coach Bryan Hodgson, four-player interview panel conducted by Matt Stolz, and Miss Arkansas Cori Keller and Miss A-State Riley Strube for photo opportunities.

Ticket sales can be purchased by visiting <https://bit.ly/BootsandBallers23>. Individual tickets are 100\$ and premium table options are available between 1,000 and 2,500 dollars.

A-State's Madigan tabbed SBC Setter of the Week

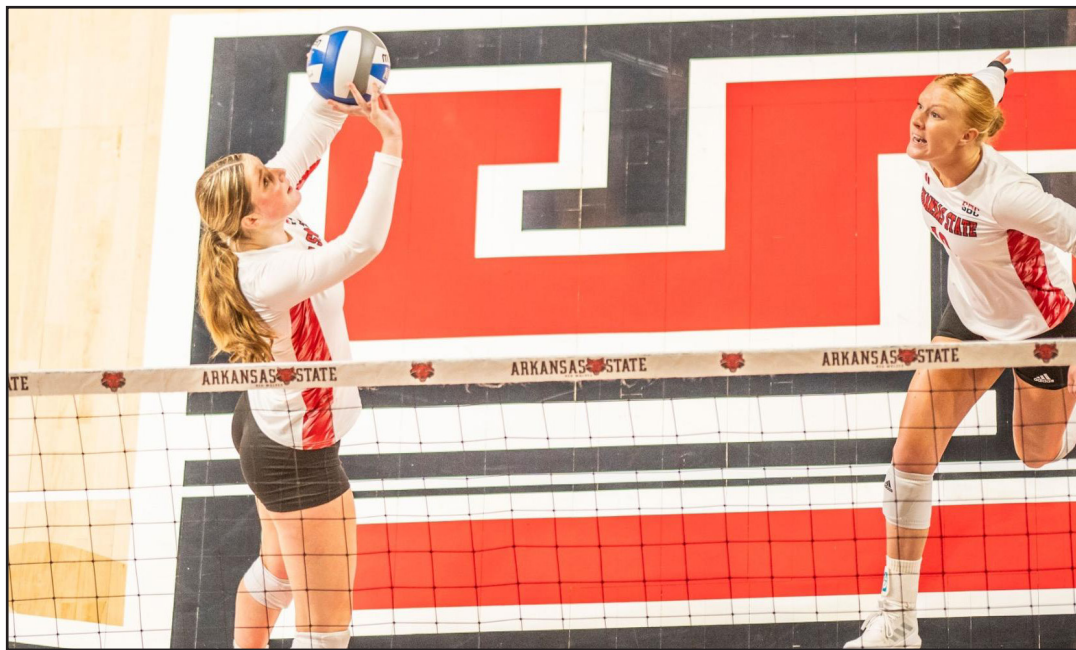


PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Erin Madigan earned Sun Belt Conference Setter of the Week Tuesday.

COURTESY OF

ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

After stuffing the stat sheets all weekend at the Bear Invitational, Arkansas State volleyball's Erin Madigan earned Sun Belt Conference Setter of the Week honors Tuesday.

The freshman guided the 10-2 Red Wolves to their fifth straight win over the weekend and earned All-Tournament honors after averaging 11.00 assists per set, totaling 132 assists over the three triumphs.

Madigan also averaged nearly a block a set (0.92), knocking down 11 total blocks

– including eight in Saturday's finale against host Missouri State. The Macomb, Michigan, native averaged 3.92 digs per set (47 total) and recorded double-doubles in all three contests. In Saturday's match, she finished two blocks shy of a triple-double, registering 44 assists, 18 digs and eight blocks.

Her honor marks the first Setter of the Week awarded to an A-State player since 2021, while also making her the program's first freshman to be named Setter of the Week since Mallory Warrington in 2013. Madigan enters the week leading all freshman setters nationally with 444 total assists.

NEXT UP

Arkansas State opens Sun Belt Conference play Friday and Saturday at Georgia Southern. First serve against the Eagles is set for 5 p.m. CT Friday and Noon CT Saturday, with both matches inside Hanner Fieldhouse set to be broadcast live on ESPN+.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Fans can follow the team on X (@AStateVB) and Instagram (@astatevb) along with liking the Arkansas State Red Wolves Volleyball page on Facebook for the latest news and updates regarding the team.

Former A-State player 3-for-3 in NFL debut

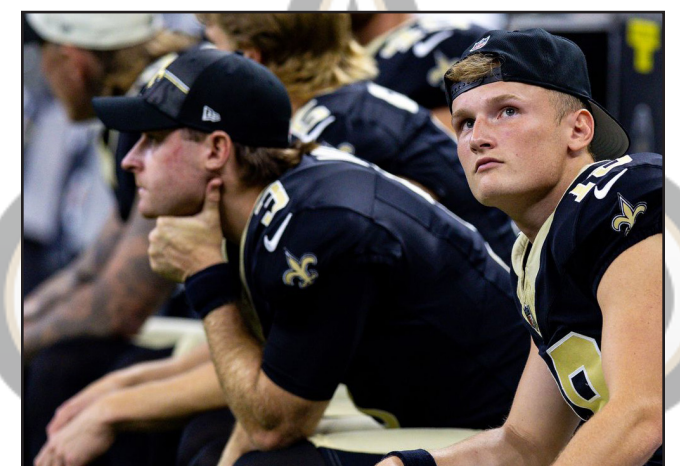


PHOTO COURTESY OF CANAL STREET CHRONICLES

Former NFL player Blake Grupe made a game-winning field goal against the Chiefs in the Saints' preseason opener. Grupe is an undrafted rookie with a 3-for-3 score in his NFL debut. Grupe spent 5 seasons with Arkansas State before transferring to Notre Dame.