

Strong 2nd Half powers Red Wolves to victory over Tulsa, 28-24



Photo By Ibuki Hinohara | Special To The Herald

WR Hunter Summers celebrates a contested catch.



Photo by Jordan Nichols | Special To The Herald

Coach Butch Jones celebrates the win with the Arkansas State Student Section.

BENJAMIN MCDOWELL

STAFF WRITER

Arkansas State is 2-0 for the first time since 2008 after a hard fought 28-24 victory over the Tulsa Golden Hurricane. The Red Wolves are now in first place in the Sun Belt Conference's West Division. A-State hosted several high school bands from around Tulsa took an early lead with a first quarter field goal, but the Red Wolves responded shortly after with a long touchdown reception to wide receiver Adam Jones to make the score 7-3.

Tulsa was able to find success in the pass game with a long passing touchdown in the second quarter, and a field goal to make the score 17-7.

Although they had a strong opening drive, the Red Wolves struggled to find a rhythm as they went scoreless for the rest of the half.

But in the second half, the Red Wolves were able to surge back. The Red Wolves outscored Tulsa 21-7 in the third quarter thanks to lights out defense and well-executed tempo.

"I thought we were able to be more balanced with running the ball, some pass plays, some RPO's, some misdirection plays," said head coach Butch

Jones. Jones emphasized the ability to play with tempo and establish a rhythm.

Quarterback Jaylen Raynor threw 21 for 32 completion for 255 yards, two touchdowns and one 3 interception. He was only sacked once. Raynor also led the team in rushing with 80 yards and one touchdown.

Running back Zak Wallace rushed for 78 yards, and was key in the Red Wolves attempt to put the game away in the fourth quarter with several strong runs.

WR Reagan Ealy led the team in receptions and receiving yards hauling in six catches for 68 yards. WR Corey Rucker had 4 receptions for 60 yards.

On defense, safety Justin Parks led with twelve tackles, four solo tackles and forced a fumble that prevented a Golden Hurricane touchdown. Linebacker Charles Willikes had ten tackles and he assisted on Brian Whitehead on a tackle for loss. Whitehead led the team in tackles for loss.

In the turnover department, Tulsa committed two costly turnovers, one with the fumble forced by Parks, and another coming off of an interception caught by safety Trevian Thomas

When asked about the changes at the half, Coach Jones said, "It is not about

our opponent, it is about us and we are built for this, the way we practice. We are going to get a stop, go down, score, and win this football game."

A-State hosted several high school bands from around Arkansas to perform at halftime for Band Day along with the Sound of the Natural State.

The Red Wolves were aided to victory by an enthusiastic crowd attending at Centennial Bank Stadium.

"Definitely, the crowd was amazing. We really tried to get involved with them" said Raynor. "They got involved with us. "We got them super, super hyped, and it was great."

Perhaps no one was more pleased with the raucous crowd than Coach Jones.

At the end of the game Jones was carried into the student section to sing the fight song and alma mater with A-State students and team.

"I can't thank everyone enough," said Jones. "It has made such a difference in our football program to have the community support that we have. We now have a home field advantage."

Red Wolves Volleyball wins two of three in Blue Raider Bash



COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Red Wolves libero Sarah Martinez during the tournament.

WILL LIVINGSTON

SPORTS EDITOR

This past weekend the Arkansas State volleyball team traveled to Murfreesboro, Tennessee to participate in the Blue Raider Bash.

The Red Wolves participated in the tournament in competition against the Lehigh Mountain Hawks, the Austin

Peay Governors, and the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders. MTSU hosted the tournament.

The Red Wolves came to Murfreesboro with a 3-0 record, including an upset victory over the Ole Miss Rebels.

In game 1, A-State took on Lehigh. Although the Red Wolves took the Mountain Hawks to four sets, they ultimately fell 3-1.

Outside hitter Kaitlin

Whitlock led the team in kills with 17. Middle blocker Daedrianna Cail recorded the most blocks for A-State with six. Libero Mia Maloney got 11 aces, and setter Erin Madigan recorded 24 assists.

Game 2 saw the Red Wolves take on Austin Peay. Once again the game went to four sets, but this time the results were in A-State's

favor, with a final score of 3-1.

Whitlock led in kills with 15, and Maloney led in aces with 5. Middle blocker Haley Glunz led in blocks with six. Libero Sarah Martinez recorded 21 digs in the game.

The Red Wolves finished strong against the hosting team. A-State shut down the Blue Raiders and swept Middle Tennessee 3-0. Whitlock led the team in kills with 12. Martinez led in aces with three. Glunz led in blocks with three, and Martinez led in digs with 21.

A-State Volleyball now has a record of 5-1. This places them in first place in the West division of the Sun Belt Conference. The Red Wolves are tied with Marshall for first place in the conference.

For her efforts in the tournament, Sarah Martinez was awarded Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Week.

Martinez leads the team in digs with 117, and is second in service aces with seven on the season.

The Red Wolves will travel to the University of North Alabama to play in the UNA Invitational on Friday.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, Sept. 13

- Women's Tennis @ Belmont/Lipscomb Invite, Nashville, Tenn., All Day

- Volleyball @ North Alabama, UNA Invitational, Huntsville, Ala. 10 AM, ESPN+

- Volleyball vs Jacksonville State, UNA Invitational, Huntsville, Ala. 4 PM, ESPN+

Saturday, Sept. 14

- Women's Tennis @ Belmont/Lipscomb Invite, Nashville, Tenn., All Day

- Football @ #17 Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. 11 AM, Big Ten Network, 107.9 KFIN

- Volleyball vs UAB, UNA Invitational, Huntsville, Ala. 12 PM

Sunday, Sept. 15

- Women's Tennis @ Belmont/Lipscomb Invite, Nashville, Tenn. All Day

Monday, Sept. 16

- Women's Golf vs UTA Maverick Classic, Arlington, Tex. All Day

Tuesday, Sept. 17

- UTA Maverick Classic, Arlington, Tex. All Day