

# Red Wolves fall 4-2 to Ole Miss in extra innings

WILL LIVINGSTON

SPORTS EDITOR

Despite a hard-fought comeback in the ninth inning, the Arkansas State baseball team lost in the tenth inning to the Ole Miss Rebels on a walk-off home run.

A-State traveled to Oxford, Mississippi to take on the struggling Rebels. After winning the College World Series as a dark horse contender in 2022, Ole Miss has failed to put together a winning season since. Last year, the Rebels finished near the bottom of the Southeastern Conference, and are predicted to do so again this season. Ole Miss is currently 2-1.

The Red Wolves story leading up to this game has not been much different, just without a title. For the last 3 seasons, the Red Wolves have failed to qualify for their conference tournament, and this resulted in the firing of former head coach Tommy Raffo. This game marked the first road game of the Mike Silva era. Over the past weekend, the Red Wolves struggled in a frigid home series against the Morehead State Eagles, ultimately losing the series 2 games to 1. The 1-2 Red Wolves did hold the win streak against the Rebels, having beat Ole Miss in an early season upset in 2024.

The streak did not continue. Ole Miss managed to piece together a win in the 10th inning, although hitting struggled in this game. The first hit of the game came in the top of the third inning off a single from second baseman Raul Torres.

The Rebels struck first on the scoreboard, after Ole Miss left fielder Judd Utermark managed to steal home in the bottom of the fourth. The score held at 1-0 Rebels until Ole Miss catcher Campbell Smithwick hit into a sacrifice double play and Rebels shortstop Owen Paino scored the second run.

The score held at 2-0 Rebels until the top of the ninth inning, when right fielder Wil French and infielder Cason Campbell reached base on a fielder's error and hit-by-pitch, respectively. Left fielder Drake Anderson was walked. Then catcher Kaden Amundson hit into a fielder's choice. Campbell was thrown out, but French scored A-State's first run of the game.

With the score 2-1, in the top of the ninth with one out, third baseman Daedrick Cail hit a sacrifice fly to bring Anderson across home plate with the tying run. Ole Miss failed to score in the bottom of the ninth, and the game went to extra innings.

The comeback was not to be, however. In the bottom of the tenth, Judd Utermark

connected on a walk-off two-run moonshot past center field to secure a Rebels victory.

In pitching, Red Wolves starting pitcher Jelle van der Lelle pitched only 3 innings, striking out 2 and allowing only a single earned run, but also walking 4 batters. Reliever Carson Keithley came in and pitched a solid inning, walking a batter but not allowing any runs or hits. Reliever Chase Richter pitched 2.2 innings and struck out 3 batters, allowing 1 hit and 1 walk. Reliever Collin Maloney got 2 strikeouts but allowed a run. Reliever Andrew Allen was credited with his first loss of the season after giving up the walk-off home run in the tenth.

With the loss, the Red Wolves fall to 1-3 on the season, and will look to bounce back in a series against the Eastern Illinois Panthers.

**What's Next:**  
Baseball, Feb. 23, 2025

**Opponent:**  
Eastern Illinois

**First Pitch:**  
1 p.m.  
**Where:** Tomlinson Stadium, Jonesboro

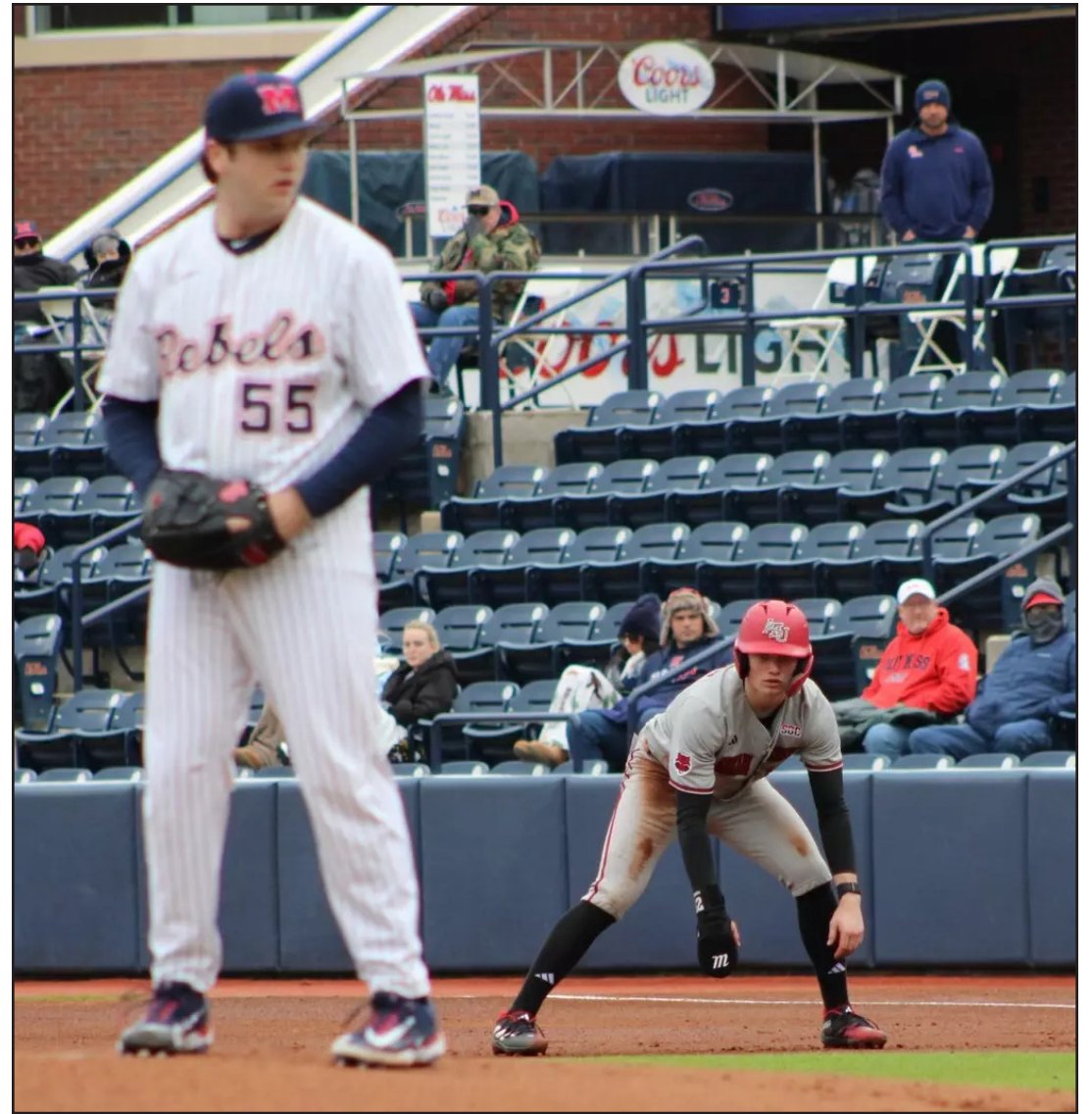


PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Red Wolves shortstop Patrick Engskov takes a healthy lead towards second base behind Rebels pitcher Alex Canney. Engskov ended the game 0-3, but was walked twice.

## Red Wolves win big on Senior Day over Bobcats

BENJAMIN MCDOWELL

STAFF WRITER

Arkansas State's Women's basketball team won in a hard-fought battle Saturday defeating Texas State. This game was a rematch from Jan. 8th at San Marcos where the Red Wolves won 66-50.

The Red Wolves winning streak at home extended to 10 games in a row. The Lady Wolves won their final home game of the season. Senior night was celebrated to recognize all senior contributions to the team. Six of A-State's basketball players played in their final game as Red Wolves.

The Red Wolves have won 13 straight conference games totaling to a 13-1 conference record. The Red Wolves completed back to back sweeps against Texas State for the first time since the 2015-2016 season.

The Red Wolves never trailed in this game, but they did get off to a slow start. They struggled at first, shooting 39% from the field and 13 % from 3 point range with 13 turnovers at half.

"I thought we played terribly offensively, and I felt we did not even score that much, so when I look at this and see we scored 20 in the third, 20 in the fourth it did not seem like that because of the flow of it," Rogers said

In the second half the energy was flipped and the Red Wolves shot much more efficiently, got more defensive stops and got to the free throw line more effectively.

Guard Zyion Shannon was a major weapon for A-State in the game, leading all scorers with 16 points, 3 steals and a block. Kennedie Montue was also a big factor for the Red Wolves totaling a double-double 11 points, 12 rebounds, 3 blocks and a steal. Montue was plus 12 on the floor.

"We were just missing so many shots. But we hang our hat on our defense, and when we get stops, we know that we can find a way to score. We don't get to our offense without our defense. So everything that we do is about our defense, we still scored 72 points" Rogers said.

In the second half, the Red Wolves were able to build an offensive rhythm. They dominated behind the arc, shooting 7 of 14 from three. On defense they forced a total of 8 second half turnovers, 4 blocks and 4 steals.

Montue was able to hit clutch shots down the stretch in the 4th quarter to help Arkansas State secure the win.

"I can't do what I do without my teammates, but when it came down to that last 5 minute mark Dez just looked at me in my eyes and I was like alright, Let me just lock in for these last couple of minutes and that's what I did" Montue said.

Shannon also shared her thoughts on senior day, and how she has been processing playing with the veterans on the team.

"Shout out to my teammates for finding me. I mean, I can't do no without them finding

me. I knew since the summer, we were, like, gonna be very close. And I don't know this team is just really, like, special to me, like they really just hold a place in my heart. And yeah, it was, it was very emotional and very emotional like this," Shannon said.

Rogers describes how they used the preseason rankings, in which the Red Wolves were predicted to finish at the bottom end of the conference, to motivate the team to beat the odds, and show people who this team really is.

"God is good. I mean, that's I'm gonna keep coming back to that, because sometimes things have to fall apart for things to come back together, and you don't know it in those moments, but I think that my eyes were open whenever I saw this team practice for the first time, and I saw how together they were."

Coach Rogers said the chemistry between the team gave her confidence in how far her team could go.

"I saw how together they were from the jump, and whenever it got released, and I saw that we were 13, I told them at the beginning of practice, and I just saw the looks on their faces like, Okay, we never talked about it again after that" Rogers said.

The Red Wolves have won 13 consecutive games in conference play, marking the longest streak since the 2015-2016 season.

A-State will go on the road Feb.20fortheirnextgameagainst the Old Dominion Monarchs.



Photo by Abigail Leggett | Staff Photographer

Guard Crislyn Rose drives towards the basket, pushing past Texas State forward Nicole Leff.