

Red Wolves crush woeful Warhawks in Senior Day blowout

WILL LIVINGSTON

SPORTS EDITOR

The Arkansas State Red Wolves men's basketball team bounced back from their slump Saturday afternoon in a 95-70 blowout over the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks.

The Red Wolves started the game somewhat slow. ULM made a few baskets to take a 13-11 lead early in the first half. A-State soon retook the lead off the back of a successful three-point shot from guard Derrian Ford.

The Red Wolves never gave the lead back once they retook it. Forward Dyondre Dominguez was a huge reason for this, as he scored 20 points in the first half, and was the team's leading scorer. Dominguez came off the bench for this game, and recorded 3 rebounds, 3 assists and a block.

Ford also had a great game from the bench and contributed to the success from the Arkansas State bench. Ford scored 14 points off of 4 three-pointers and 5-11 from the field. Ford contributed to the Red Wolves getting a whopping 42 points from the bench.

"I mean it starts with Dre, obviously," head coach Bryan Hodgson said. "You know, 20 points in 17 minutes, four for six from 3. And Derrian Ford gave us a huge spark. You know, Derrian and Dyondre are two guys that

could start and play 30 minutes at almost any other program in the Sun Belt. And they both have had huge games for us."

The 50-29 score at halftime was already getting out of hand for ULM as they were down 21 points. It only got worse from there, as the Red Wolves never let up pressure in the second half. A-State also did not pull out their starters until late in the second half. The Red Wolves won the game in blowout fashion, with a final score of 95-70.

Forward Izaiyah Nelson had a big game, recording a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Nelson was a major contributor to a game that became a slam dunk party, with A-State recording 12 in the game. Guard Taryn Todd scored 14, and went 7-9 from the field.

The win secured the Red Wolves their second consecutive 20-win season, the first time they have achieved this since 1989.

"When you're playing for the right things and you're playing for one another, you're going to have success," Hodgson said. "It's great that we got to 20 wins. We're not done yet, and we plan on that being the standard around here."

Guard Avery "The Mayor" Felts had plenty to say about the Red Wolves recent string of success. Felts has played with the Red Wolves since his freshman year, and was honored amongst

the seniors at the Senior Day ceremony. Felts played with the Red Wolves before Hodgson's arrival, and thus played during some bad years at A-State.

"I mean it's been a big turnaround," Felts said. "Obviously we went from winning maybe three games in conference the year before Coach got here, and now we got a chance to win the league. It's been cool to see how we've become closer as a team and a lot more disciplined. And I think discipline is very important to winning basketball games."

The win puts a stop on the recent skid the Red Wolves had been on. Before this game, A-State had lost 4 of their last 5, and are currently in third place in the Sun Belt Conference, although they have the best overall record in the conference at 20-9. The Red Wolves will be on the road Wednesday to take on the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns.

What's Next:

Opponent:
Louisiana Ragin'
Cajuns

Tipoff: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Lafayette,
Louisiana

Tune in: ESPN+



Guard Taryn Todd makes a slam dunk against ULM.

Photo by Ibuki Hinohara | Photo Editor

French rakes, but Red Wolves fall to Southern Illinois 7-5

ALLIE CARSON

STAFF WRITER

Even after a shutout game against Eastern Illinois, the Red Wolves couldn't win their game against Southern Illinois on Tuesday. Although the Red Wolves scored their first five run game, they still lost 7-5.

Southern Illinois struck first and early, scoring two in the first inning on a double and a sacrifice fly. The bottom of the first resulted in a four and out for the Red Wolves. Right fielder Wil French got a double but was thrown out at home soon after.

Southern Illinois scored another run during the top of the second but nothing else happened until the top of the fourth after Southern Illinois got bases loaded. A double play got enough outs to get the Red Wolves out of the inning.

The bottom of the fourth gave the Red Wolves some much needed momentum. Third baseman Daedrick Cail got a double on the third pitch. Shortstop Patrick Engskov was walked by Salukis' starting pitcher Tyler Timmerman before left fielder Cason Campbell made it to first.

Once again French proved vital for the Red Wolves, as he smacked a double to bring two Red Wolves across home. But the next at bat, French was caught

in a rundown between third and home, ending the inning with the score at 4-3 for the Salukis.

Nobody scored again until the bottom of the sixth, with French getting yet another RBI as Cason Campbell scored on French's sacrifice fly to tie the game 4-4.

After a pitcher change, Southern Illinois scored again at the top of the eighth, making the game 7-5.

The Red Wolves scored one more time during the game but it wasn't enough. First basemen Cason Tollett hit a sacrifice fly which let catcher Kaden Amundson score.

Freshman pitcher Tyler Weimer got the start on the mound for the Red Wolves, pitching for 2.2 innings and allowing six hits and three runs. Starting pitcher Jelle van der Lelie came in to relieve him at the top of the third. Lelie pitched for four innings, allowing four hits and two runs.

Lelie stayed in the game until a controversial call from the third base umpire that coach Ryan Silva didn't challenge, calling a SIU player safe when he should have been out. The next play, that player scored on a sacrifice fly, making the game 5-4 SIU.

Reliever Carson Keithley came in the game after Lelie to pitch, pitching for less than an inning, he walked a player then

the next player got a double, resulting in two runs for his stats. First-year pitcher Andrew Allen pitched for the rest of the game, being the only Red Wolf with strikeouts, recording two and giving up one hit.

Wil French led the Red Wolves in hits, going 4/4 during his at bats including three runs batted in.

Southern Illinois pitcher Blaine Harpenau, who used to play for the Red Wolves, got the save for the game, pitching in the final two innings. Salukis reliever Cole Koonce got the win for Southern Illinois while A-State's van der Lelie got the loss.

After this loss, the Red Wolves is 2-6 on the season but look to improve that record at home against the Southeast Missouri State RedHawks before playing a series on the road against the Jacksonville State Gamecocks.

What's Next:

Opponent:
SEMO RedHawks

First Pitch: 3:00
p.m.

Where: Tomlinson
Stadium, Jonesboro

Tune in: ESPN+



Photo by Abigail Leggett | Staff Photographer

Infielder Patrick Engskov sets up the double play for the Red Wolves.