

Van Andel kicks game winner over Jaguars

WILL LIVINGSTON

SPORTS EDITOR

The Arkansas State Red Wolves football team defeated the South Alabama Jaguars on another thrilling finish with a final score of 15-14.

A-State entered the game 2-4 after defeating Texas State 31-30 on a last minute touchdown. South Alabama had lost five straight games and had a record of 1-5, with their last victory coming in week one against Morgan State of the Football Championship Subdivision.

Penalties were a major factor in this game. A combined 25 flags were thrown in this game for a combined 221 penalty yards. A-State's first few drives were heavily affected by penalties, with several costly holding penalties killing offensive momentum. The Jags got the scoring started in the 1st quarter after the first three drives of the game ended in punts. A costly facemask penalty tacked on to a 24 yard pass by Jags quarterback Bishop Davenport got South Alabama a huge chunk of yards, and the Red Wolves defensive struggles against the run did nothing to help stop the offense. The drive ended on a 9 yard touchdown run by Jaguars running back Kentrel Bullock to make the score 7-0.



Red Wolves kicker Clune Van Andel is carried off the field by his teammates after nailing the game-winning field goal. The kick earned the Red Wolves their first road win of the season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

The Red Wolves did nothing but punt in the first quarter, but in the second quarter they finally got on the board with a 25-yard field goal by kicker Clune Van Andel.

The half ended with a score of 7-3. Things started to look lost for the Red Wolves in the third quarter. While the defense held firm for most of the game, the offense struggled to finish

a drive with a touchdown. The Red Wolves second drive showed a lot of promise, but stalled out near the red zone. Van Andel attempted another field goal to bring the deficit within a point, but this attempt was blocked by the Jaguars.

The defense for A-State held off the Jags the next drive, but QB Jaylen Raynor threw an interception immediately after

the Red Wolves got back on offense. The Jaguars capitalized on the turnover in five plays and South Alabama RB PJ Martin took a sweep to the house from seven yards out. The lead was extended to 14-3.

A-State scored on their opening drive of the fourth quarter with another field goal from Van Andel, this time a successful attempt from 37

yards out. On the next Red Wolves possession A-State finally found success. Raynor got loose from the Jaguars pass rush and scrambled 42 yards, breaking multiple tackles in the process. On the very next play Raynor found wide receiver Hunter Summers for a 6-touchdown pass. The two-point attempt failed and the score stayed at 14-12 Jaguars.

South Alabama attempted to put the game out of reach with a 15 play drive that ended in a field goal attempt. But, similarly to the Texas State game on October 4, kicker Hamilton DiBoyan missed a 29-yard field goal.

With the game on the line, Raynor once again rose to the occasion. Raynor gained three first downs through the air and on the ground, setting the Red Wolves up in prime field goal position. A-State then put their trust in Van Andel, and Van Andel delivered with a 38-yard boot as time expired. The Red Wolves snatched a 15-14 victory with the score.

The victory marks the first road victory of the season for the Red Wolves and moves their record to 3-4. A-State has won their past two games by a combined two points. For the Jaguars, their losing streak increases to six. If they lose another game this season, they will be ineligible for a postseason bowl game. They will look to right the ship against fellow Sun Belt Conference basement dweller Georgia State.

The Red Wolves will take a much-needed break after this game, and will not return to action until October 25. They will play Georgia Southern in their homecoming game.

Bowling makes their own luck in '25



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

A-State's bowling team gather in a huddle during the NCAA Regionals in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

WILL LIVINGSTON

SPORTS EDITOR

After an early end to last season, the Arkansas State bowling team will go into the 2025-26 season with experience and a new hope to finally bring a championship to Jonesboro.

The 2024-25 campaign ended in disappointment. After making the NCAA championship three years in a row, the Red Wolves lost two matches against underdog Maryville to be sent home early. The Red Wolves ended the season with an 80-41 record, which was coach Justin Kostick's worst record since 2021-22, when the team went 72-37. The bowling team has made a few changes to the staff since then.

"We've made some adjustments to the coaching staff, and we've hired a mental performance as well," Kostick

said. "We needed to self-evaluate some of what went on and make some adjustments on the equipment side of stuff and just get back to work with some adjustments on how we train."

The bowling team made a change at assistant coach with the hiring of Mike Conn. Conn spent the last three seasons with the Savannah College of Art and Design men's and women's bowling team. During this time, the Bees' men's team won their conference, and the women's team won back-to-back NAIA national championships.

"Mike is an elite ball driller, and he's very good at fitting, he knows how to drill the balls to do certain things," Kostick said, once again referencing some equipment adjustments taken. "Mike's also coached women before. At the NAIA level they have men's bowling, and so he was not the overall head coach but the overall

head coach at SCAD ran the men's program and Conn ran the women's program. So he was essentially the head coach of the women's team."

Unlike last season, there will only be one freshman for this season. The team will be far more experienced than last year.

"We were a bit of a young team last year," senior bowler Kaili VanDuinen said. "So this year with the freshman having a year of experience and just knowing what to expect, I think that everything will be good this season."

Kostick said that he thinks that the experience and lack of youth will be a boon to the bowling season.

"We're bringing everyone back except for one person, and we still have some people who played for the national championship on TV, so that's a good thing to have," Kostick said. "When you

have a very experience-laden team, that definitely helps you compete so hopefully that gets us off to a good start."

The bowling team returns almost all of their leading bowlers this season.

VanDuinen and senior Kaylee Back are the current leaders in games played. Back had the highest single game score last season with 279. Other leading scorers returning include sophomore Amanda Lang, who knocked 6,195 pins as a freshman and got 276 in a single game. Senior Maggie Thoma will return after getting 7,379 pins last season.

The Red Wolves will face fierce competition this season. The National Tenpin Coaches Association gave A-State the sixth spot in the preseason top 25. The top 5 in the rankings are all in Conference USA with the Red Wolves.

Arkansas State will begin their search for a national championship on October 17 at the Penguin Classic hosted by Youngstown State. Kostick said that he is positive about the chances of a championship.

"It's going to take a lot of togetherness and making sure our confidence level is good," Kostick said. "It's very possible to win the national championship. You got to have things go your way, too and have some luck factor into it. But you make your own luck too, so you got to go out there and perform and put in the work and the effort. I think if you do those things with the skill that we have, then good things will happen."

Red Wolves place sixth at Lady Red Wolves Classic



Photo by Allie Carson | News Editor

Red Wolves golfer Morgan Beaulieu takes a drive.

ALLIE CARSON

NEWS EDITOR

Arkansas State's women's golf team finished sixth on their home green among 17 total teams after scoring 14-over par during the Lady Red Wolves Classic.

Senior Olivia Coit led the Red Wolves in all three matches of the tournament, scoring a career best of 3-under-par 213 and placed sixth overall. She ended round one 2-under-par and went on to strike even on round two before hitting 1-under-par on her second to final hole of the tournament.

First-year Mackenzie Cloutier hit a hole-in-one on hole 11 during the last round of the tournament Tuesday. It was her first career hole-in-one. She tied for 16 overall

with an even-par 216 after hitting 5-over par on round one, 2-under par on round two and 3-under par on the final round.

Coit and Cloutier were the only Red Wolves to finish under par throughout the entire tournament, with the rest of the team having a round or two not go their way. This resulted in A-State finishing the homestand over par.

During round one, the Red Wolves finished 4-over par 292 while during round two, they finished 9-over par 297 for 13-over par on day one. During the final round, A-State finished one-over par 289, their second lowest score of the season.

The Red Wolves will go on to play at the Diamante Intercollegiate at the Diamante Country Club in Hot Springs Village on Oct 19-21.