

Red Wolves escape Missouri State with comeback win

ERIC FLUKE
STAFF WRITER

The Red Wolves clawed their way back from a 16 point deficit in the first half to take an 86-85 win on the road against the Missouri State Bears. It was a battle until the end for the team, sealing the win with a defensive stop after Missouri State nabbed an offensive rebound to try to take the lead at the last second. It was also a rare Springfield win for the Red Wolves, as they had a 2-14 record there before the game. Starting off the first half, the Red Wolves looked like a disorganized mess. On the offense, plays were being executed but without any results at the basket, with the team shooting 37.5% from the field and an abysmal 9.1% from the three point line. The defense was just as bad on the other side of the ball. Wide open shots on the wing were given up from risky double teams in the paint often. Even when defense was swarming inside, early foul trouble made them anxious to contest shots and allowed

easy layups for the Bears. Their biggest weakness during this period came in the forms of Bears guard Zaxton King and forward Michael Osei-Bonsu. Osei-Bonsu had his way in the paint, forcing his way to the basket and drawing double teams. He ended the game with a double-double at 21 points and 10 rebounds. While Osei-Bonsu had all of the defense's attention, King was able to get into position on the perimeter and punish the defense for their lack of awareness, scoring 18 points on 7 of 9 from the field. The first half ended with a big Mo State lead of 46-33. After the beating they took from the Bears in the first half, the Red Wolves came out from the break with their rust shaken off. Their offense began to click on all cylinders, improving their shooting to 51.5% from the field and 36.4% from three on the half. They took advantage of Missouri State's own foul troubles and attacked the paint constantly while their best rim protectors, forward Keith Palek III and Osei-Bonsu, were on the bench, helping to bring the game back into reach.

The biggest star of both this half and the game was Red Wolves guard Chandler Jackson, who ended the game with a career high 33 points. He shot an astounding 10-11 from the field and a perfect 3-3 from beyond the arc. Ultimately, the game came down to the final five minutes where the Red Wolves narrowly pulled away with the win. After a costly contest at the rim caused Palek to foul out, the Red Wolves let loose upon Missouri State's defense, with Jackson leading the charge. Jackson made multiple crucial shots from within the arc that helped the Red Wolves pull away, but a few unwise fouls against them gave Mo State the boost to make it a one point game. However, the Red Wolves held on and clamped down on the Bears on their last possession, guiding them to a well-earned victory on the road. A-State improves their record to 2-1 on the season. They will finally return to Jonesboro for their first home game of the season. The Red Wolves are set to take on Christian Brothers on November 15.



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS
Red Wolves point guard Chandler Jackson goes in for a contested shot in the paint.

Southern Miss intercepts Red Wolves' title hopes

ALLIE CARSON
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Arkansas State had the opportunity to secure its sixth win of the season and clinch a bowl game in its matchup against the 5-0 in conference play Southern Miss Golden Eagles, but six turnovers resulted in a Red Wolves loss. Head coach Butch Jones said he was more disappointed in the turnout than the outcome of the game. "What more could you want? You have a team that's coming in that's in first place, you're playing the defending champion, going to be a great challenge, underdogs at home, national television. I'm really appreciative of everyone's efforts for getting here and coming out, but I'll be very transparent with you, I'm disappointed in our student body," Jones said. "We built a college football program here that we're the fourth-winningest program in the group of five over the last two years. How can you not be proud of the effort that this football team continues to give week in and week out?" The game started with a fumble on the first play of the game by wide receiver Chauncy Cobb. While Southern Miss was held to a field goal by the A-State defense, this first play fumble would set the tone for the rest of the game. Thankfully for Red Wolves fans, Jaylen Raynor started their second drive of the game with a 55-yard pass to WR Corey Rucker and followed it

up with a pass to running back Kenyon Clay for a touchdown. This was the only touchdown the Red Wolves scored in the first half of the game. A-State would get in field goal range late into the first quarter thanks to a 34-yard return by Cobb, followed by some well-placed passes. Raynor would be sacked for 11 yards, taking the Red Wolves all the way to the 40 and out of field goal range. The Red Wolves would have to punt, but they'd get an interception on Southern Miss' first play by safety Brandon Barnes. A-State would immediately punt after a three-and-out. The Golden Eagles' very next drive would result in a 76-yard screen pass for a touchdown on their first play. "You have to be able to react. You have to be able to see the lineman pull. If you see a little, you see a lot," Jones said. "When you play a team like this, your margin of error is very small, and if you're a count late, they're going to expose you, because they have really good players, and that's exactly what they were able to do." The Red Wolves got the ball back and made it to the Golden Eagles' 34-yard line. Raynor threw to the end zone for his second interception of the game. Raynor would end the half by throwing a deep ball from the 41 to the Golden Eagles' 2-yard line for his third interception of the night. Jones defended Raynor's performance and status as the starting quarterback.



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS
WR Corey Rucker Jr. runs the ball after a catch.

"I will live and die with Jaylen Raynor. He means everything to our football program, and how about he willed his way to give us an opportunity to win at the end of the game against the team that is leading our division," Jones said. "He's invested his heart and soul into this football program, just like everybody has. If there's anybody who has sweat equity in our football program, it's Jaylen Raynor." The third quarter was mostly punting. Arkansas State would be the one to break the chain of punts when QB Josh Flowers, who was put in after Raynor got hurt, would throw the fourth interception of the day in the end zone. The Golden Eagles were the only team to score during the quarter on a field goal 2:05 left. The fourth quarter would start with A-State's first touchdown since the beginning of the game. With Flowers still

in as quarterback, he would make a short pass to Tyler Little who stretched out across the line for the touchdown. The Golden Eagles would respond soon after but so would the Red Wolves, scoring after Raynor returned to the game and sent WR Jaylen Bonelli a short pass for the touchdown. "I felt I was good enough to go and give my best to give my team a chance to win," Raynor said. Still down 27-21, A-State would have the ball with 1:09 to play. At Southern Miss' 36 yard line, Raynor and the offense had five seconds left to play. Raynor threw it deep to the end zone and the game ended in a fifth interception, the sixth turnover of the game for the Red Wolves. A-State falls to 5-5 on the season. The Red Wolves will take on the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns next Thursday.

A-State falls to Mizzou



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS
Guard Zyion Shannon reads Missouri defense. The Red Wolves women's basketball team fell to the Missouri Tigers 97-75 in Columbia, MO. Shannon led the team in scoring with 26 points, 6 rebounds and 3 steals. The Red Wolves fall to 1-2 with the loss and will return to Jonesboro to take on the Little Rock Trojans.

SportsCenter traveling to Jonesboro

The flagship program of ESPN is making the trip to J-Boogie to shoot a live hour-long coverage of the Red Wolves matchup against the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns.

Where: Reng Student Union (Red W.O.L.F Center if there's bad weather)
When: 12:30 p.m.

Who: All Red Wolves fans, but especially the students
What to wear: All your Red Wolves gear!