

Sports

The Sacking of Troy, 2025 edition

WILL LIVINGSTON

SPORTS EDITOR

Arkansas State started the 2025 football season with one of the worst defenses in the country, but nobody would know it now after they laid the smack down on the Troy Trojans on the road.

The Red Wolves got nine sacks in the game, tying Minnesota for the most in a game this season and it is the second most in program history in a single game. The A-State defense held Troy to only 21 team rushing yards thanks to the sacks.

The Red Wolves' offense helped out their defense in a big way in the first quarter. Thanks to a hurry-up no-huddle offensive scheme in the early drives, quarterback Jaylen Raynor was able to lead A-State down the field quickly on the first drive and connected with tight end Tyler Fortenberry on a 4-yard touchdown pass.

Troy coughed up the ball on their next drive and A-State scored again thanks to excellent field position. This time, it only took two passes from

Raynor to reach the endzone, and WR Hunter Summers reeled in a 19-yard touchdown pass to make the score 14-0.

These would be the last touchdowns of the game for the Red Wolves. Offense inexplicably slowed down and the Red Wolves struggled, especially in the red zone. Kicker Clune Van Andel came through when the offense fell short, and ended the game going 3/4 on his field goal attempts. Van Andel nailed his first attempt and the Red Wolves ended the first quarter with a 17-0 lead.

A-State's defense got 4 sacks in the second quarter, but they finally allowed a Trojan score on a 43-yard field goal. The Red Wolves' offense could not get the ball moving, and Van Andel missed their only scoring opportunity of the quarter. The half ended with a score of 17-3.

Van Andel kicked another field goal to open the second half and made the score 20-3. Defensive end Demarcus Hendricks and defensive tackle Ethan Hassler got a brutal sandwich sack and prevented Troy from

scoring in the third quarter.

The fourth quarter went a little better for the Trojans, but it wasn't enough. Despite allowing another sack in the first drive, Troy drove down the field and Trojans' quarterback Tucker Kilcrease scored on a 1-yard bootleg touchdown run to make the score 20-10.

A Trojans comeback was starting to look possible by the end of the next drive. WR Chauncy Cobb, who up until this point had been having a great game, fumbled the ball after a hard collision. But the Red Wolves' defense came through once again. Hendricks got another Red Wolves sack and Kilcrease was kind enough to throw the ball to Red Wolves safety AG McGhee.

A-State nailed one last field goal to put the game away. The defense forced the turnover on downs from Troy and the game was over.

With the victory, the Red Wolves extended their winning streak to four games. The win also moves them to a winning record at 5-4, and at 4-1 in conference play the Red



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

The Red Wolves defense celebrates forcing a fourth down during the game against Troy.

Wolves replace Troy for second place in the Sun Belt West.

The Red Wolves will take on the first-place Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles on

Saturday. If the Red Wolves defeat Southern Miss, they will officially control their own destiny in the division, as winning out would all but assure a berth

in the Sun Belt Conference Championship game. The Red Wolves take on the Golden Eagles at 11 a.m. in Jonesboro.

Ball State crashes ring night



Photo by Ibuki Hinohara | Photo Editor

Karsyn Norman of Ball State maneuvers past the Red Wolves defenders

ERIC FLUKE

STAFF WRITER

On what should have been a triumphant night for the Arkansas State University Women's Basketball team, the Ball State University Cardinals swooped in and snatched a 68-66 victory on the Lady Red Wolves' ring night.

Before tipoff, the team was given their Sun Belt championship rings and celebrated the greatest season of women's basketball in A-State history, which ended with the school's first bid into the NCAA tournament.

The team seemed poised to come out carrying their confidence and energy from their previous season. However, things got ugly right after tipoff.

The Cardinals came out swinging to start the first quarter and beat down on the Red Wolves, with the visitors finishing the period with an 11 point lead. Cardinals guard Grace Kingery led the charge as the leading scorer

of the quarter with 6 points.

The story of this quarter for the Red Wolves was their lackluster shooting. At the end of the first, they ended up shooting 3-20 from the field, 2-10 from three, and 1-4 at the free throw line, seemingly lacking the confidence they needed to fire back at the Cardinals.

The defense seemed to struggle greatly as well on the perimeter, with risky double teams trying to push full court pressure leading to wide open shooters on the wing scoring 9 points on open three pointers. However, the defense showed a glimmer of hope with 8 forced turnovers, but the offense was unable to capitalize on these opportunities.

Head Coach Destinee Rogers believes this quarter will be the worst play that the fans will deal with this season, noting her strong faith in this team in the post-game press conference. "As rough as that quarter had been, that was probably the worst quarter we'll have all season," said Coach Rogers.

Shooting from the field did not greatly improve in the second quarter for A-State, shooting 2-12 from the field and 0-8 from three, but coming out of the half, the Lady Wolves came out with a fire and hustle that the Cardinals could not contain.

The team began to torch the net, going on a 12 point run near the end of the third quarter to even the score at 44-44. Guards Zyion Shannon and Crislyn Rose led the charge, scoring 8 points and 5 points respectively.

Rose and the Red Wolves came out knowing they needed to be more aggressive and keep up their defensive hustle, commenting on this third quarter message that they needed in the post-game press conference. Rose said, "Honestly, we got to be more aggressive. We didn't look like we wanted it more, so we had to go out there and just play hard, be aggressive, and let our defense turn into offense for us."

Read the full article on our website, astatetheherald.com

Red Wolves defeat Ohio



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Red Wolves guard Joey Chammaa looks for open passing options against Ohio.

WILL LIVINGSTON

SPORTS EDITOR

Ryan Pannone got his first win as a head coach and the Red Wolves men's basketball team won their first game of the season as they fought to victory over the Ohio Bobcats.

Point guard Chandler Jackson had a great first game, with 21 points and 8 rebounds. He was 6-7. Guard Joey Chammaa had a huge game

off the bench and looks like he could be the steady sixth man as he scored 21 points, including 4 three-pointers.

Forward Jackson Ellingsworth also had a great game off the bench. Ellingsworth showed starting potential as he got 14 points and 6 rebounds.

The Red Wolves had a great game in rebounding as well, pulling in 41 rebounds compared to the Bobcats' 24. Arkansas State ended the

first half down 32-39 after a slow start on offense. The game was back and forth for much of the second half, but some clutch jumpers from Jackson and guard TJ Caldwell helped the Red Wolves pull ahead, as well as big threes from Chammaa.

With the win the Red Wolves are 1-0. They will look to stay perfect as they travel to Nacogdoches, Texas to take on the Stephen F. Austin Lumberjacks.

Volleyball sweeps Cajuns



Photo by Sooyeong Choi | Special to the Herald

Red Wolves right side hitter Payton Van Veen and middle blocker Daedrianna Cail block a Ragin' Cajuns attempt to send the ball into Red Wolves territory. The Red Wolves got a full sweep over Louisiana, only giving up one set in two games.

What's Next:

Opponent: South Alabama

Game 1: Nov. 7 at 6p.m.

Where: Mobile, Alabama

Tune in: ESPN+