

WEEK ONE
WASHINGTON STATE AT WYOMING

LARAMIE, Wyo. -- Washington State's starting quarterback wasn't publicly known until the offense took the field Saturday against Wyoming.

But graduate transfer Gardner Minshew knew he was the starter and responded by throwing for 319 yards and three touchdowns as the Cougars gained a 41-19 season-opening win over the Cowboys.

Minshew, who transferred from East Carolina, completed 38 of 57 attempts.

He had TD passes of 2 yards to James Williams, 6 yards to Max Borghi and 7 yards to Easop Winston. Minshew threw one interception.

Cougar coach Mike Leach had kept his starting quarterback a secret until the game started, but Minshew said after the game that he knew he was the starter a couple of weeks ago.

Williams rushed 16 times for 82 yards and one score for Washington State (1-0). He also caught 10 passes for 53 yards.

Washington State trailed at halftime but the Cougars scored touchdowns on four of its five possessions in the second half.

"I thought the first half we were trying to do too much, focusing on trying to be perfect," Leach said.

Leach said Minshew was "slow at delivering the ball" but was more decisive in the second half.

Minshew said the offense simply did a better job in the second half.

"The receivers caught the ball really well in the second half, and I just started throwing the ball better," he said. "I was making better decisions."

Wyoming (1-1) was led by Nico Evans, who ran for 89 yards and a touchdown before leaving the game during the Cowboys' first series of the second half because of an unspecified rib injury.

The Cowboys offense was limited to 206 total yards, including just 67 passing yards.

Wyoming led 16-13 at the half but managed only a 30-yard field goal in the second half.

The Cowboys hurt themselves with penalties, committing 13 infractions for 109 yards.

"If you're going to play against a good team, you can't shoot yourself in the foot, and I think we did that," Wyoming coach Craig Bohl said. "The margin for doing that is pretty slim, and we didn't get it done."

THE TAKEAWAY

Washington State: Entered the game having lost seven straight season-openers played on the road. The Cougars' last season-opening win on the road was in 2004 when they beat New Mexico 21-17.

Wyoming: The Cowboys have lost 13 straight games against Power 5 conference opponents. Their last victory against a Power 5 team was in 2007 when they beat Tennessee 13-7.

REPLACING FALK

Minshew follows in the footsteps of Luke Falk, who threw for 3,593 yards and 30 touchdowns last season for the Cougars. Falk was released by the NFL's Tennessee Titans on Saturday. After last season, Tyler Hilinski was expected to start at quarterback this season, but he took his own life in January.

SLOW START

Wyoming's offense struggled early on against the Cougar defense. The Cowboys had no first downs and just 9 total yards in the first quarter. Tyler Vander Waal, who attempted four passes in the first quarter, didn't complete his first pass until Wyoming's first possession of the second quarter.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WSU	10	3	7	21	41
WYO	2	14	3	0	19

Scoring Summary -----

	WSU	WYO
FIRST QUARTER		
WSU FG 9:57		
Blake Mazza 24 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 68 yards, 5:03	3	0
WSU TD 3:28		
James Williams 2 Yd pass from Gardner Minshew (Blake Mazza Kick)		
10 plays, 63 yards, 4:14	10	0
WYO SF 1:35		
Team Safety		
4 plays, -24 yards, 0:00	10	2
SECOND QUARTER		
WYO TD 12:23		
Nico Evans 8 Yd Run (Cooper Rothe Kick)		
5 plays, 30 yards, 2:29	10	9
WSU FG 8:37		
Blake Mazza 41 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 51 yards, 3:46	13	9
WYO TD 5:07		
Avante' Cox 23 Yd Run (Cooper Rothe Kick)		
4 plays, 54 yards, 1:36	13	16
THIRD QUARTER		
WYO FG 8:48		
Cooper Rothe 30 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 62 yards, 6:12	13	19
WSU TD 3:51		
Max Borghi 6 Yd pass from Gardner Minshew (Blake Mazza Kick)		
10 plays, 75 yards, 4:57	20	19
FOURTH QUARTER		
WSU TD 10:55		
Easop Winston 7 Yd pass from Gardner Minshew (Blake Mazza Kick)		
4 plays, 48 yards, 1:34	27	19
WSU TD 5:50		
Max Borghi 14 Yd Run (Blake Mazza Kick)		
6 plays, 54 yards, 2:42	34	19
WSU TD 0:44		
James Williams 3 Yd Run (Blake Mazza Kick)		
12 plays, 62 yards, 4:12	41	19

Team Stats	WSU	WYO
First Downs	24	15
Total Yards	394	206
Total Plays	78	59
Avg Gain Per Play	5.1	3.5
Net Yards Rushing	75	139
Rushes	21	39
Yards Per Rush	3.6	3.6
Net Yards Passing	319	67
Comp-Att	38-57	8-20
Yards Per Pass	5.6	3.3
Times Sacked	3	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	27	0
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	3	9
Punt Average	51.7	39.4
Penalties	10	13
Penalty Yards	75	109
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	31:38	28:22

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
WSU					
James Williams	16	82	5.1	1	18
Max Borghi	1	14	14.0	1	14
Keith Harrington	2	5	2.5	0	3
Gardner Minshew	1	2	2.0	0	2
Team	1	-28	-28.0	0	0
WYO					
Nico Evans	18	89	4.9	1	18
Jevon Bigelow	11	42	3.8	0	11
Avante' Cox	1	23	23.0	1	23
Xazavian Valladay	4	15	3.8	0	7
Austin Conway	1	9	9.0	0	9
Tyler Vander Waal	4	-39	-9.8	0	4

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
WSU							
Gardner Minshew	38	57	319	5.6	3	1	61.2
WYO							
Tyler Vander Waal	8	20	67	3.3	0	1	3.6

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
WSU					
Jamire Calvin	5	82	16.4	0	36
Davontavean Martin	5	73	14.6	0	31
James Williams	10	53	5.3	1	17
Dezmon Patmon	4	49	12.3	0	29
Kyle Sweet	2	22	11.0	0	18
Max Borghi	6	18	3.0	1	6
Easop Winston	3	13	4.3	1	7
Keith Harrington	2	5	2.5	0	3
Travell Harris	1	4	4.0	0	4
WYO					
James Price	2	23	11.5	0	15
Raghib Ismail Jr.	2	21	10.5	0	23
Austin Conway	3	18	6.0	0	8
Avante' Cox	1	5	5.0	0	5