

WEEK SEVEN
ARKANSAS at KENTUCKY

Lynn Bowden's 3 TDs rally Kentucky past Arkansas 24-20

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- Besides remarkable versatility with the football in his hands, Kentucky junior Lynn Bowden also showed impressive skill remaining tight-lipped about whether he'd show his skills as Kentucky's starting quarterback.

Once that personnel secret was announced, Bowden displayed almost every talent to rally the Wildcats past Arkansas.

Bowden accounted for three touchdowns in his first start at QB, including the go-ahead 24-yard scoring run with 6:53 remaining, to lead Kentucky past the Razorbacks 24-20 on Saturday night and end a three-game losing streak.

That victory came after Kentucky ended a week of speculation about whether Bowden or Sawyer Smith would start behind center. The Wildcats' top receiver took first-team snaps during the bye while the banged-up Smith recovered, but the team didn't officially announce Bowden as the starter until just before kickoff.

"Everyone kept asking," Bowden said.

After settling that issue, the former high school quarterback and runner-up for Ohio Mr. Football went to work overcoming the Razorbacks.

Trailing 13-0, the junior led Kentucky (3-3, 1/3 Southeastern Conference) back from a sluggish offensive start with a 3-yard run late in the first half before eventually seizing the lead with a 10-yard TD pass to Clevan Thomas late in the third.

Bowden then directed a 75-yard drive ending with his second TD run and sealed the close victory with a 51-yard run in the final minutes. He finished with a career-best 196 yards rushing on 24 carries and completed 7 of 11 passes for 78 yards.

Bowden's yardage was second in program history behind Mike Fanuzzi, who rushed for 208 yards against Miami (Ohio) in 1974.

"So proud of Lynn, obviously, for what he's done and the way he prepared for the past couple of weeks," Kentucky coach Mark Stoops said. "But also the team, they played really good around Lynn offensively. Guys were very unselfish, they did what they had to do blocking, doing tough things on the perimeter. Just doing whatever we have to do to move the football."

The coach also elaborated about keeping Bowden's status under wraps.

"We felt like we were going to have to start him for a week or two," he said. "But Sawyer was getting better, he did practice this week. It was getting close, but we invested a lot of time in that game plan with Lynn."

It paid off as Kentucky twice overcame deficits before holding on to win before 57,060.

"I've got good playmakers around me outside of myself," Bowden said. "You just give those guys a chance and they're going to make the most of it."

A.J. Rose added 90 yards rushing on 16 carries as the Wildcats outrushed the Razorbacks (2-4, 0-3) 330-183 and outgained them 418-305 overall. Kavosiey Smoke carried 11 times for 45 yards.

Rakeem Boyd rushed for 134 yards and two touchdowns, including a 74-yard TD run on the game's second play, as Arkansas took a 13-0 lead. His 2-yard TD put the Razorbacks ahead 20-17 but they ended up losing their 14th consecutive SEC game and third close contest in a row overall.

"I didn't feel like we executed in the key moments we needed the most to get a stop, get the ball," Arkansas coach Chad Morris said. "Where we are as a program right now, we get the ball in the red zone, we've got to score touchdowns and we were unable to do that. Especially early on when he had the momentum."

THIRD-DOWN DRAMA
Kentucky ended up converting 7 of 14 chances on the money down but only after missing several short-yardage opportunities that added urgency to its comeback. Arkansas was 6 of 13 on third down.

THE TAKEAWAY
Arkansas: The Razorbacks got the start they needed with Boyd's TD run on the game's second play and Connor Limpert's field goals of 28 and 44 yards. The offense stalled from there, Ben Hicks replaced Nick Starkel and ended up leading a go-ahead TD drive, but the defense struggled to contain the quick and versatile Bowden.

Kentucky: After coyly avoiding answering whether Bowden would start ahead of Smith, coach Mark Stoops went with the versatile receiver. The Wildcats' execution struggled at times, but Bowden provided the needed spark.

The defense also had three sacks and made several big plays late to preserve the homecoming win.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ARK	7	6	0	7	20
UK	0	7	10	7	24

Scoring Summary -----

Quarter	Time	Player	Team	Yards	Score
FIRST QUARTER	14:18	Rakeem Boyd	ARK	74 Yd Run (Connor Limpert Kick)	0
	2 plays, 75 yards, 0:42				7
SECOND QUARTER	14:57	Connor Limpert	ARK	28 Yd Field Goal	0
	8 plays, 22 yards, 1:50				10
	5:48	Connor Limpert	ARK	44 Yd Field Goal	0
	10 plays, 45 yards, 3:58				13
	0:55	Lynn Bowden Jr.	UK	3 Yd Run (Matt Ruffolo Kick)	7
	10 plays, 75 yards, 4:53				13
THIRD QUARTER	9:02	Matt Ruffolo	UK	50 Yd Field Goal	10
	13 plays, 45 yards, 5:52				13
	1:50	Clevan Thomas Jr.	UK	10 Yd pass from Lynn Bowden Jr. (Matt Ruffolo Kick)	17
	6 plays, 48 yards, 3:16				13
FOURTH QUARTER	10:35	Rakeem Boyd	ARK	2 Yd Run (Connor Limpert Kick)	17
	3 plays, 29 yards, 0:52				20
	6:53	Lynn Bowden Jr.	UK	24 Yd Run (Matt Ruffolo Kick)	24
	6 plays, 75 yards, 3:42				20

Team Stats	ARK	UK
First Downs	16	21
Passes for First	7	5
Rushes for First	6	15
Penalties for First	3	1
Third Down Efficiency	6-13	7-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-1
Total Yards	305	418
Total Plays	57	66
Avg Gain Per Play	5.4	6.3
Net Yards Rushing	183	330
Rushes	30	54
Yards Per Rush	6.1	6.1
Net Yards Passing	122	88
Comp-Att	12-27	8-12
Yards Per Pass	4.5	7.3
Times Sacked	3	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-18	-7
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	4	3
Punt Average	44.3	44.3
Penalties	5	7
Penalty Yards	39	44
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	22:49	37:11

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
Player	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
ARKANSAS							
Rakeem Boyd	15	134	8.9	2	74		
Devwah Whaley	9	42	4.7	0	21		
Treyton Burks	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Ben Hicks	4	5	1.3	0	13		
Nick Starkel	1	-9	-9.0	0	0		
KENTUCKY							
Lynn Bowden Jr.	24	196	8.2	2	51		
Asim Rose	16	90	5.6	0	27		
Kavosiey Smoke	11	45	4.1	0	25		
Akeem Hayes	1	2	2.0	0	2		
Team	2	-3	-1.5	0	0		
PASSING							
Player	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
ARKANSAS							
Ben Hicks	5	8	81	10.1	0	0	49.0
Nick Starkel	7	19	41	2.2	0	0	19.4
KENTUCKY							
Lynn Bowden Jr.	7	11	78	7.1	1	0	97.0
Asim Rose	1	1	10	10.0	0	0	65.1
RECEIVING							
Player	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
ARKANSAS							
Cheyenne O'Grady	4	44	11.0	0	22		
Treyton Burks	2	25	12.5	0	15		
Trey Knox	2	24	12.0	0	18		
Mike Woods	3	18	6.0	0	15		
Tyson Morris	1	11	11.0	0	11		
KENTUCKY							
Justin Rigg	2	43	21.5	0	31		
Allen Dailey Jr.	1	14	14.0	0	14		
Josh Ali	2	13	6.5	0	10		
Clevan Thomas Jr.	2	10	5.0	1	10		
Bryce Oliver	1	8	8.0	0	8		