

WEEK ONE
 PORTLAND ST at ARKANSAS

Arkansas holds off Portland State 20-13

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. -- Arkansas put together just enough offense to beat Portland State 20-13 in Saturday's season opener, but it wasn't easy.

Arkansas struggled to sustain drives and had a number of poor passes and others that were dropped.

Arkansas coach Chad Morris said he was disappointed in the play of his offensive unit, which compiled 395 yards of total offense with 204 of that on the ground. The Razorbacks were just 18 of 35 passing for 191 yards with one turnover.

"We never apologize for winning," Arkansas Morris said. "There is no such thing as a bad win."

The Razorbacks' defense played well, limiting the FCS Vikings to 75 yards rushing and forcing three turnovers to go along with six sacks and eight tackles for loss.

"Their defense whipped us," said Portland State coach Bruce Barnum. "When we came in we had a plan, but their defense did a helluva job. My fear was we could not protect against their front seven and we needed to make some quick throws and that did not work offensively in the first half."

Junior Rakeem Boyd powered the Razorbacks' offense, rushing for 114 yards on 18 carries. Boyd's third quarter touchdown, set up by a Jarques McClellion interception, gave Arkansas a little breathing room with a 17-6 lead. Boyd added a late 25-yard run to help seal the win.

Portland State drove for a late fourth quarter score behind backup quarterback Jaloni Eason, who eluded an Arkansas rush and fired a 32-yard dart to tight end Charlie Taumoepeau to pull the Vikings within 20-13 with 4:14 left. Eason came in for starter Davis Alexander, who suffered a shoulder injury to his non-throwing shoulder.

The teams traded field goals in the first half before Arkansas took a 10-3 lead on Deva Whaley's short touchdown run with 3:16 left in the first quarter to cap a 10-play, 64-yard drive. Portland State later pulled within 10-6 on Cody Williams' 47-yard field goal, his second of the day. The first was a 50-yarder on the Vikings' first possession.

Arkansas had a chance to pad its lead before halftime when Kamren Curl intercepted a Davis Alexander pass and returned it to the Portland State 18, but the Razorbacks gave the ball back on an interception at the Vikings' goal line.

The Razorbacks also squandered another scoring opportunity later after backup quarterback Nick Starker hit Trey Knox for 38 yards to the Portland State 27 with under 30 seconds left. Starker completed two short passes, the last to Boyd, who could not get out of bounds before the clock expired.

"We knew we were going to get their best shot and we did," Morris said. "We will be able to correct off of this and see this football team improve going into a big game next week in Oxford."

THE TAKEAWAY

The explosive offense that Morris was promising when he was hired in December 2017 has yet to materialize. The Razorbacks looked sluggish most of the day and Ben Hicks, the graduate transfer from SMU, missed several open throws when he wasn't under pressure from the Portland State defensive front. He finished 14 of 29 passing for 143 yards, but no turnovers. Starker, who transferred from Texas A&M, had a costly interception late in the first half to stop a scoring opportunity.

HE SAID IT

"They had their way with us," said Barnum, "but my team got after it. We were trying to make plays. We did not throw in the towel."

WHERE FOR ART THOU, ROMEO?

Portland State linebacker Romeo Grunt recorded 15 tackles, including nine solo stops, to power the Vikings' defense.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
PRST	3	3	0	7	13
ARK	10	0	7	3	20

Scoring Summary -----

	PRST	ARK
FIRST QUARTER		
PRST FG 13:09 Cody Williams 50 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 42 yards, 1:51	3	0
ARK FG 9:40 Connor Limpert 34 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 54 yards, 3:29	3	3
ARK TD 3:16 Devwah Whaley 1 Yd Run (Connor Limpert Kick)		
10 plays, 64 yards, 4:15	3	10
SECOND QUARTER		
PRST FG 14:07 Cody Williams 47 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 45 yards, 4:09	6	10
THIRD QUARTER		
ARK TD 2:20 Rakeem Boyd 2 Yd Run (Connor Limpert Kick)		
12 plays, 67 yards, 4:57	6	17
FOURTH QUARTER		
ARK FG 10:44 Connor Limpert 25 Yd Field Goal		
12 plays, 63 yards, 5:09	6	20
PRST TD 4:14 Charlie Taumoepeau 32 Yd pass from Jalani Eason (Cody Williams Kick)		
14 plays, 75 yards, 6:30	13	20
14 play		

	PRST	ARK
Team Stats		
First Downs	16	26
Passes for First	7	11
Rushes for First	5	12
Penalties for First	4	3
Third Down Efficiency	2-13	5-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	3-3	2-2
Total Yards	230	395
Total Plays	61	77
Avg Gain Per Play	3.8	5.1
Net Yards Rushing	75	204
Rushes	28	42
Yards Per Rush	2.7	4.9
Net Yards Passing	155	191
Comp-Att	16-33	18-35
Yards Per Pass	4.7	5.5
Times Sacked	1	6
Yds Lost To Sacks	-4	-29
Interceptions	3	1
Punts	5	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	10	7
Penalty Yards	85	70
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	26:22	33:38

Individual Stats

RUSHING

PORTLAND ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Sirgeo Hoffman	4	28	7.0	0	20
Davis Alexander	14	27	1.9	0	22
Emmanuel Daigbe	1	11	11.0	0	11
Jalani Eason	5	6	1.2	0	5
Evynt Holtz	2	2	1.0	0	1
Carlos Martin	2	1	0.5	0	3
ARKANSAS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Rakeem Boyd	18	114	6.3	1	25
De'Vion Warren	3	37	12.3	0	17
Chase Hayden	9	28	3.1	0	6
Devwah Whaley	9	21	2.3	1	11
Ben Hicks	2	6	3.0	0	10

PASSING

PORTLAND ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Davis Alexander	10/21	81	3.9	0	2		
Jalani Eason	6/11	74	6.7	1	1		
ARKANSAS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Ben Hicks	14/29	143	4.9	0	0		
Nick Starkel	4/5	48	9.6	0	1		

RECEIVING

PORTLAND ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Charlie Taumoepeau	4	56	14.0	1	32
Emmanuel Daigbe	5	43	8.6	0	15
Sirgeo Hoffman	4	35	8.8	0	15
Davis Koetter	1	16	16.0	0	16
Mataio Talalemotu	1	5	5.0	0	5
Carlos Martin	1	0	0.0	0	0
ARKANSAS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Treyton Burks	3	52	17.3	0	20
Trey Knox	1	38	38.0	0	38
Mike Woods	5	30	6.0	0	15
Rakeem Boyd	3	22	7.3	0	13
Grayson Gunter	3	16	5.3	0	9
Tyson Morris	1	15	15.0	0	15
Chase Harrell	1	14	14.0	0	14
Chase Hayden	1	4	4.0	0	4