

ALAMO BOWL  
IOWA STATE VS WASHINGTON STATE

Gardner Minshew II and that glorious mustache conjured up a final bit of magic in a grand finale for Washington State.

Minshew, a graduate transfer quarterback whose whiskered upper lip was loved and mimicked by Cougars fans all season, threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score in sending No. 13 Washington State (No. 12 AP) to a 28-26 win over No. 24 Iowa State (No. 25 AP) in the Valero Alamo Bowl on Friday night.

Minshew’s passing and scrambling earned the Cougars (11-2) a school record for wins in a season. He also finished with 4,779 passing yards this season, breaking the Pac-12 single-season record previously held by California’s Jared Goff (4,719).

Minshew passed for 299 yards Friday, none of them bigger than a play made out of desperation when Iowa State had all the momentum.

After watching a 21-10 lead dwindle to 21-20 by early in the fourth quarter, the Cougars stripped the ball from Iowa State running back David Montgomery at the Cyclones’ 30. Minshew, who had been held in check in the third quarter, escaped a third-down pass rush to flip a last-second shovel pass to Tay Martin that went for 20 yards.

The play stunned the Cyclones, and Max Borghi scored on a 10-yard run the next play.

It was just another big fourth-quarter moment for the transfer from East Carolina whom coach Mike Leach had lured out West with the promise he could lead the nation in passing.

Minshew was the nation’s leading passer in yards per game this season and won the Johnny Unitas Award as the nation’s top senior quarterback in a season the Cougars fell one game short of playing for the Pac-12 championship.

Nearly all of his completions this season were more orthodox than the flip to Martin. None were bigger than this one for the season and the legacy it left for the program.

“I want to say thank you to these coaches, this university and these fans for taking me in,” Minshew said.

“So glad to be a part of this,” he added. “One thing I’ve always been told is to leave a place better than we found it. This place could be really special.”

The Cyclones did a good job in bottling Minshew up for much of the game. Iowa State’s defense held Washington State to 10 points and 135 yards below its season averages, and two of the Cougars’ touchdowns came on short drives after turnovers.

But after Minshew found a way to get Washington State in the end zone, the Cougars’ defense made the one play it had to at the end.

Iowa State’s last chance came after quarterback Brock Purdy scored from a yard out with 4:02 left. The Cyclones went for two, but a pass to Montgomery was stopped well short of the goal line after a false-start penalty pushed the line of scrimmage back to the 8.

Iowa State had seven false-start penalties and had two players ejected for targeting hits on Minshew.

Purdy passed for 315 yards, and Cyclones wide receiver Hakeem Butler caught nine passes for 192 yards, 6 yards shy of the Alamo Bowl record. Montgomery rushed for 124 yards.

The Cyclones (8-5) had rallied from a 1-3 start to finish third in the Big 12, the program’s best conference finish in 40 years.

“This team never quits, plays with elite attitude and elite effort. The missing piece for us right now is in the detail,” Iowa State coach Matt Campbell said. “Now, to take the next step in this program is detail. It’s what got us tonight. Silly mistakes.”

THE TAKEAWAY

Washington State: Minshew survived several tough hits in the first half and was excellent when it was time to kill the clock. He completed 9 of 13 passes in the fourth quarter for 78 yards. After Iowa State’s final touchdown, he completed three passes, two of them converting third downs, as the Cougars ran out the clock.

Iowa State: Turnovers and targeting calls were critical. Purdy threw two first-quarter interceptions, and Montgomery’s fumble was a game-changer. Iowa State had two key defenders ejected in the second quarter for targeting hits to Minshew. Senior linebacker Willie Harvey was ejected after smashing Minshew in the face mask on a scramble. Defensive end Eyiyoma Uwazurike was booted after a sack knocked Minshew’s helmet off.

TOUCHDOWN TAUNTING

Washington State cornerback Marcus Strong had a long touchdown interception return wiped out in the first quarter when he was flagged for taunting on his way into the end zone. Strong stepped in front of a pass intended for Butler and had a clear path to the goal line. He was penalized because he held the ball out and looked back as Purdy made a futile dive for his feet. Instead of the score, the Cougars got the ball on the Iowa State 20 and scored two plays later when Minshew connected with Renard Bell.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ISU	0	10	10	6	26
WSU	7	14	0	7	28

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER	ISU	WSU
WSU TD 6:55		
Renard Bell 22 Yd pass from Gardner Minshew (Blake Mazza Kick)		
3 plays, 20 yards, 0:53	0	7
SECOND QUARTER	ISU	WSU
WSU TD 6:08		
Gardner Minshew 7 Yd Run (Blake Mazza Kick)		
13 plays, 88 yards, 5:55	0	14
ISU TD 4:26		
Brock Purdy 9 Yd Run (Connor Assalley Kick)		
4 plays, 69 yards, 1:42	7	14
WSU TD 1:02		
Dezmon Patmon 9 Yd pass from Gardner Minshew (Blake Mazza Kick)		
8 plays, 62 yards, 3:24	7	21
ISU FG 0:00		
Connor Assalley 50 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 42 yards, 1:02	10	21
THIRD QUARTER	ISU	WSU
ISU TD 12:11		
David Montgomery 8 Yd Run (Connor Assalley Kick)		
7 plays, 73 yards, 2:49	17	21
ISU FG 1:04		
Connor Assalley 23 Yd Field Goal		
14 plays, 74 yards, 6:36	20	21
FOURTH QUARTER	ISU	WSU
WSU TD 10:24		
Max Borghi 10 Yd Run (Blake Mazza Kick)		
4 plays, 30 yards, 0:53	20	28
ISU TD 4:02		
Brock Purdy 1 Yd Run (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)		
5 plays, 74 yards, 2:46	26	28

Team Stats	ISU	WSU
First Downs	22	19
Total Yards	515	327
Total Plays	66	66
Avg Gain Per Play	7.8	5.0
Net Yards Rushing	200	28
Rushes	39	17
Yards Per Rush	5.1	1.6
Net Yards Passing	315	299
Comp-Att	18-27	35-49
Yards Per Pass	11.7	6.1
Times Sacked	3	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-15	-7
Interceptions	2	0
Punts	3	6
Punt Average	42.7	43.7
Penalties	10	6
Penalty Yards	63	65
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Possession	29:33	30:27

Individual Stats

RUSHING					
ISU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
32 David Montgomery	26	124	4.8	18	1
15 Brock Purdy	10	46	4.6	18	2
25 Sheldon Croney Jr.	2	16	8.0	14	0
3 Kene Nwangwu	1	14	14.0	14	0
WSU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
16 Gardner Minshew II	6	16	2.7	7	1
21 Max Borghi	5	13	2.6	10	1
32 James Williams	3	11	3.7	7	0

PASSING							
ISU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
15 Brock Purdy	18	27	315	11.7	0	2	149.9
WSU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
16 Gardner Minshew II	35	49	299	6.1	2	0	136.2

RECEIVING

ISU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
18 Hakeem Butler	9	192	21.3	36	0
32 David Montgomery	4	55	13.8	53	0
11 Chase Allen	1	28	28.0	28	0
47 Sam Seonbuchner	1	18	18.0	18	0
23 Matthew Eaton	1	11	11.0	11	0
8 Deshaunte Jones	1	6	6.0	6	0
82 Landen Akers	1	5	5.0	5	0
WSU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
12 Dezmon Patmon	6	76	12.7	23	1
32 James Williams	7	53	7.6	13	0
8 Easop Winston Jr.	4	43	10.8	22	0
6 Jamire Calvin	5	35	7.0	12	0
1 Davontavean Martin	4	35	8.8	20	0
81 Renard Bell	1	22	22.0	22	1
21 Max Borghi	6	22	3.7	13	0
85 Calvin Jackson Jr.	1	7	7.0	7	0
5 Travell Harris	1	6	6.0	6	0