

POTATO BOWL
WESTERN MICHIGAN VS BYU

BOISE, Idaho -- At the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl pregame news conference Thursday, BYU coach Kalani Sitake set high expectations when asked about how he thought quarterback Zach Wilson would play.

"Perfectly," Sitake said jokingly. "That's what I'm praying for, perfect play from everyone."

Sitake didn't get it from everyone, but he did from Wilson.

The BYU freshman was 18-of-18 passing for 317 yards and four touchdowns, and the Cougars beat Western Michigan 49-18 on Friday.

Selected the game MVP, Wilson tied the NCAA bowl record for completion percentage set by Riley Skinner at 11-for-11 for Wake Forest in the 2008 EagleBank Bowl.

Wilson and Skinner are the only players in FBS history to post a 100 percent completion percentage in a bowl game (minimum 10 pass attempts).

Wilson's 18 straight completions are second-most in an NCAA bowl game behind Georgia's Mike Bobo, who had 19 straight against Wisconsin in the 1998 Outback Bowl.

His four passing touchdowns also tied a BYU bowl game record.

"I've been trying to let Zach loose for a long time now," Sitake said as he patted Wilson on the back. "I think an aggressive style of offense is what we need. This was really good for us to see that we could win a game when a team commits to stopping the run against us."

In the first half, BYU (7-6) struggled to sustain momentum offensively and had just 115 yards, despite Wilson completing all eight of his attempts, mostly on short routes. The ground game had a total of 20 yards on 17 carries.

But with BYU down 10-7 at halftime, Sitake unleashed Wilson in the second half.

The Cougars' 28-point third quarter started with an 8-yard pass from Wilson to Dylan Collie. Then, after a 37-yard TD run by Riley Burt, Wilson hit Aleva Hifo on a 70-yard scoring strike.

"I think the bar is set a little too high for the next bowl game," Wilson said. "But I think we proved what we can do as a team and found our offensive identity and discovered what we're good at."

Despite the record-setting performance, Wilson admitted afterward that he had no idea his day was going so well statistically.

"The game flashes by so quick, and I thought I had at least six or seven incompletions," Wilson said. "That's when you realize the success for a quarterback is based on the team around you."

Western Michigan (7-6), which was without starting quarterback Jon Wassink due to a foot injury, rolled up 192 yards of offense in the first half with freshman Kaleb Eleby. But the Broncos managed only 41 yards on 18 plays in the decisive third quarter.

"I thought our defense did a great job of keeping us in it," Western Michigan coach Tim Lester said. "Once they got a lead on us, they got after our secondary pretty good. We knew this game was going to be about which quarterback could get into a rhythm, we said that all week, and [Wilson] got comfortable."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WMU	0	10	0	8	18
BYU	7	0	28	14	49
Scoring Summary -----					
FIRST QUARTER					
				WMU	BYU
BYU TD 2:20					
Dylan Collie 26 Yd pass from Zach Wilson (Skyler Southam Kick)					
2 plays, 27 yards, 0:41					
SECOND QUARTER					
WMU TD 3:07					
Jamauri Bogan 33 Yd Run (Gavin Peddie Kick)					
4 plays, 40 yards, 1:53					
WMU FG 0:24					
Gavin Peddie 37 Yd Field Goal					
11 plays, 51 yards, 1:14					
THIRD QUARTER					
BYU TD 13:14					
Dylan Collie 8 Yd pass from Zach Wilson (Skyler Southam Kick)					
3 plays, 69 yards, 1:46					
BYU TD 7:29					
Riley Burt 37 Yd Run (Skyler Southam Kick)					
4 plays, 74 yards, 1:27					
BYU TD 5:04					
Aleva Hifo 70 Yd pass from Zach Wilson (Skyler Southam Kick)					
2 plays, 63 yards, 0:45					
BYU TD 2:47					
Dayan Ghanwoloku 1 Yd Run (Skyler Southam Kick)					
3 plays, 32 yards, 1:19					
FOURTH QUARTER					
BYU TD 11:38					
Dax Milne 5 Yd pass from Zach Wilson (Skyler Southam Kick)					
4 plays, 54 yards, 1:47					
WMU TD 7:37					
Kaleb Eleby 1 Yd Run (Kaleb Eleby Pass to Jayden Reed for Two-Point Conversion)					
9 plays, 75 yards, 4:01					
BYU TD 4:07					
Brayden El-Bakri 1 Yd Run (Skyler Southam Kick)					
7 plays, 75 yards, 3:30					

Team Stats	WMU	BYU
First Downs	16	22
Total Yards	313	490
Total Plays	76	52
Avg Gain Per Play	4.1	9.4
Net Yards Rushing	138	132
Rushes	39	33
Yards Per Rush	3.5	4.0
Net Yards Passing	175	358
Comp-Att	20-37	19-19
Yards Per Pass	4.7	18.8
Times Sacked	3	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-14	-26
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	6	2
Punt Average	32.0	43.5
Penalties	5	6
Penalty Yards	37	55
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	35:21	24:39

Individual Stats					
RUSHING					
WMU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
32 Jamauri Bogan	13	62	4.8	33	1
2 LeVante Bellamy	15	56	3.7	9	0
28 Chase Brown	4	15	3.8	5	0
9 Kaleb Eleby	7	5	0.7	7	1
BYU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
34 Riley Burt	13	110	8.5	37	1
11 Zach Wilson	10	23	2.3	11	0
35 Brayden El-Bakri	4	6	1.5	2	1
15 Aleva Hifo	1	5	5.0	5	0
5 Dayan Ghanwoloku	1	1	1.0	1	1
45 Tyler Allgeier	3	-11	-3.7	6	0

PASSING					
WMU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD
9 Kaleb Eleby	20	36	175	4.9	0
1 Alex Mussat	0	1	0	0.0	0
BYU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD
11 Zach Wilson	18	18	317	17.6	4
12 Tanner Mangum	1	1	41	41.0	0

RECEIVING					
WMU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
7 D'Wayne Eskridge	2	61	30.5	54	0
2 LeVante Bellamy	6	45	7.5	14	0
13 Keishawn Watson	5	34	6.8	13	0
28 Chase Brown	3	13	4.3	6	0
32 Jamauri Bogan	2	10	5.0	7	0
11 Jaylen Hall	1	7	7.0	7	0
8 Tyron Arnett	1	5	5.0	5	0
BYU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
3 Dylan Collie	6	124	20.7	41	2
15 Aleva Hifo	2	85	42.5	70	1
84 Neil Pau'u	2	57	28.5	48	0
89 Matt Bushman	4	52	13.0	19	0
32 Dallin Holker	1	20	20.0	20	0
21 Talon Shumway	2	18	9.0	13	0
82 Dax Milne	1	5	5.0	5	1
45 Tyler Allgeier	1	-3	-3.0	0	0