

WEEK ONE
 ABILENE CHRISTIAN AT BAYLOR

WACO, Texas -- Baylor is off to a better start in coach Matt Rhule's second season.

The Bears have already matched their win total from last year after a season-opening 55-27 victory over FCS team Abilene Christian on Saturday night.

John Lovett rushed for 115 yards and three touchdowns, JaMycal Hasty added 102 yards with two scores in the opener.

"It wasn't a perfect game. We have a lot we have to correct, but we saw a lot of flashes," Rhule said. "Our guys can go out there and enjoy a win, and most importantly they can enjoy a win at home. They can walk out and see their family and friends, they can hug their moms, dads and grandparents and know their work was not for naught."

The Bears snapped an eight-game home losing streak, piling up 606 total yards and scoring their most points since also having 55 in their 2016 season opener. They were 0-6 at home last year, including losses in the first two games of the season against teams that had never won a game against a Power Five team.

Returning starting quarterback Charlie Brewer and graduate transfer Jalan McClendon from North Carolina State combined to throw for 311 yards.

McClendon was particularly sharp, hitting 10 of his 13 passes for 173 yards with touchdowns on his first two drives. Brewer was 8 for 15 for 138 yards with an interception.

"I wouldn't say it came too easy," McClendon said. "The receivers did a great job, the running backs did a great job blocking the front. We knew they'd blitz heavily. Everybody just did their job, and I was getting the fruits of their labor."

Cal transfer Billy McCrary ran for 141 yards and a touchdown for Abilene Christian. Luke Anthony completed 25 of 38 passes for 224 yards with two TDs and an interception.

"I think we did a lot of really good things on offense," Abilene Christian coach Adam Dorrel said. "We averaged 80 yards rushing last year, and that was a big focus for us this year. To come in and have (220) yards rushing on our opening night against a Big 12 school I think is exciting. It's a lot to grow on."

THE TAKEAWAY

Abilene Christian: This was the first time the Wildcats had tested themselves against a Texas team from the highest level of college football since 1949. They didn't have the personnel to match the Bears up front, especially on their defensive line, but had some big plays that allowed them to keep the game from getting completely out of hand.

Baylor: The Bears showed balance and explosiveness on offense with 311 yards passing and 295 rushing. They were also able to grind out yardage on the ground when they needed to on third-and-short situations, an area in which they struggled last season. The defense still has work to do, however, after allowing 466 yards (246 passing and 220 rushing).

THROUGH THE UPRIGHTS

Baylor junior kicker Connor Martin made both of his field goal tries, including a career-long 50-yarder in the third quarter. That was the first Baylor field goal of at least 50 yards in nearly five years.

Martin is 22 for 26 in his career. That 84.6 percent accuracy is the highest in Baylor history, more than 10 percentage points better than anyone else.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ACU	7	13	7	0	27
BAY	17	21	10	7	55

Scoring Summary -----

Quarter	Time	Player	Team	Yards	Score	
FIRST QUARTER	9:39	Connor Martin	ACU	35 Yd Field Goal	3	
	5:27	Jalen Hurd	BAY	25 Yd pass from Jalan McClendon (Connor Martin Kick)	10	
	1:41	D.J. Fuller	BAY	54 Yd pass from Luke Anthony (Oscar Hernandez Kick)	17	
	SECOND QUARTER	11:24	JaMycal Hasty	BAY	3 Yd Run (Connor Martin Kick)	24
		5:54	Oscar Hernandez	BAY	34 Yd Field Goal	24
		3:50	Billy McCrary	BAY	75 Yd Run (Oscar Hernandez Kick)	31
		0:00	John Lovett	BAY	31 Yd Run (Connor Martin Kick)	38
		0:00	Oscar Hernandez	BAY	46 Yd Field Goal	38
		10:55	John Lovett	BAY	3 Yd Run (Connor Martin Kick)	45
	THIRD QUARTER	6:53	Chase Cokley	BAY	7 Yd pass from Luke Anthony (Oscar Hernandez Kick)	45
3:24		Connor Martin	BAY	50 Yd Field Goal	48	
FOURTH QUARTER		9:18	John Lovett	BAY	7 Yd Run (Connor Martin Kick)	55
		2:22	John Lovett	BAY	55 Yards, 2:22	55

Team Stats	ab	bay
First Downs	19	26
Total Yards	466	606
Total Plays	67	64
Avg Gain Per Play	7.0	9.5
Net Yards Rushing	220	295
Rushes	27	36
Yards Per Rush	8.1	8.2
Net Yards Passing	246	311
Comp-Att	27-40	18-28
Yards Per Pass	6.2	11.1
Times Sacked	0	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-5
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	7	3
Punt Average	43.1	42.7
Penalties	5	5
Penalty Yards	37	53
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	0

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
AC	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
20 Billy McCrary	6	141	23.5	75	1		
21 Tracy James	12	40	3.3	12	0		
12 Sema'J Davis	5	25	5.0	17	0		
35 Tyrese White	2	7	3.5	8	0		
3 Luke Anthony	2	7	3.5	12	0		
Baylor							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
27 John Lovett	12	115	9.6	31	3		
33 JaMycal Hasty	10	102	10.2	54	2		
25 Trestan Ebner	3	28	9.3	17	0		
12 Charlie Brewer	1	15	15.0	15	0		
21 Josh Fleeks	2	12	6.0	6	0		
28 Abram Smith	4	11	2.8	6	0		
14 Jalan McClendon	2	7	3.5	7	0		
81 Tyquan Thornton	1	3	3.0	3	0		
17 Garret McGuire	1	2	2.0	2	0		
PASSING							
AC	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
3 Luke Anthony	25	38	224	5.9	2	1	127.4
12 Sema'J Davis	2	2	22	11.0	0	0	192.4
BAY							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
14 Jalan McClendon	10	13	173	13.3	2	0	239.5
12 Charlie Brewer	8	15	138	9.2	0	1	117.3
17 Garret McGuire	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
RECEIVING							
AC	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
1 D.J. Fuller	9	102	11.3	54	1		
16 Chase Cokley	6	40	6.7	14	1		
21 Tracy James	3	35	11.7	27	0		
87 Josh Fink	3	30	10.0	14	0		
9 Kalin Sadler	3	21	7.0	9	0		
15 Cody Ennis	2	14	7.0	15	0		
20 Billy McCrary	1	4	4.0	4	0		
BAY							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
15 Denzel Mims	3	80	26.7	55	0		
33 JaMycal Hasty	4	67	16.8	34	0		
84 Jalen Hurd	4	58	14.5	25	1		
14 Chris Platt	3	40	13.3	18	0		
25 Trestan Ebner	2	39	19.5	23	0		
34 Marques Jones	1	20	20.0	20	1		
87 Christoph Henle	1	7	7.0	7	0		
13 Tony Nicholson	0	0	-	-	0		
21 Josh Fleeks	0	0	-	-	0		
81 Tyquan Thornton	0	0	-	-	0		