

WEEK TWO

ARIZONA AT HOUSTON

HOUSTON -- Houston quarterback D'Eriq King and the rest of the Cougars' offense made it a miserable homecoming for Arizona coach Kevin Sumlin.

King threw for four touchdowns and rushed for two more as the Cougars hammered Arizona 45-18 on Saturday, dropping the Wildcats to 0-2 in Sumlin's first season.

ADVERTISEMENT

King, who finished with 246 passing and 31 rushing yards, connected with Marquez Stevenson on a 24-yard TD pass, scored on a 1-yard run, then hit tight end Romello Brooker for a 52-yard score and it was 21-0 Houston after one quarter.

Arizona, playing uphill the rest of the game, never recovered.

Houston (2-0) scored twice more before halftime -- on a 35-yard field goal from Dalton Witherspoon and on King's 13-yard pass to Bryson Smith for a 31-0 lead.

"I thought our offensive staff and players did a great job today," Houston coach Major Applewhite said. "Getting out to a big lead was huge. It allowed us to get some other guys in the game."

Houston defensive lineman Ed Oliver, an All-American, gets a lot of hype but the Cougars' offense has a clear identity after the first two weeks. It's up-tempo and efficient. The Cougars are quick between plays, giving opponents little time to set up. On Saturday, it took Arizona some time to adjust.

"Defenses get tired with our fast offense," Brooker said. "I think it's really effective. We are improving on offense, too."

Arizona quarterback Khalil Tate, who has been mentioned in the Heisman Trophy conversation, looked sluggish at times, but finished the game strong, completing 24 of 45 passes for 341 yards and two interceptions and a scoring run. He tweaked his ankle in the first half but remained in the game. Sumlin said he and his staff checked on Tate throughout the game.

Tate said the ankle injury affected him a little, but that he still felt like his team did what they were trying to do.

"You get bumps and bruises," he said. "We were still able to follow the game plan."

Arizona avoided the shut out, scoring its first points in the third quarter on a 49-yard field goal from Lucas Havrisik. Running back Darrius Smith scored on a 1-yard rush with 11 seconds remaining in the third quarter to give the Wildcats their first touchdown. With just over 11 minutes left in the game, Tate scored his only touchdown of the day on a 2-yard run.

The Wildcats looked much better in the second half, but it was too little, too late.

"We didn't start fast, we got behind and it took too long to get things going," said Sumlin, who coached the Cougars from 2008-2011 before leaving for Texas A&M. "We have to start faster."

Arizona ran 100 total plays in the game and finished with 531 total yards (381 passing, 150 rushing.) Houston finished the game with 551 offensive yards (297 rushing, 254 passing).

EIGHT'S ENOUGH

Houston saw eight players rush for yards and eight players catch passes in the win. Terence Williams led the rushing attack with 67 yards, while two others rushed for more than 60 yards -- Patrick Carr (66) and Stevenson (60.) Brooker had two catches for 76 yards.

DAVIS STEALS SHOW

Houston defensive back Garrett Davis picked off two Arizona passes. The first came in the first quarter when Tate threw too high and Davis snatched and returned it 20 yards. The second was in the third quarter when the Wildcats were on the move.

THE TAKEAWAY

Arizona: Sumlin is off to a slow start as he takes over the program. The Wildcats could use a confidence game and they should get that next weekend before the Pac-12 slate begins. Tate has been good, but not good enough to make up for a defense that is giving up 36.5 points per game.

Houston: The Cougars proved that they are a team to keep an eye on -- not just because of the lopsided win on Saturday, but because of the way they won. The offense, led by the head-turning King, is getting due credit, but the Houston defense was also impressive even without a huge game from Oliver, picking off two passes.

Final	1	2	3	4	T		
ARIZ	0	0	10	8	18		
HOU	21	10	7	7	45		
<b>Scoring Summary</b> -----							
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>							
HOU TD 12:13							
Marquez Stevenson 24 Yd pass from D'Eriq King (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)				0	7		
10 plays, 81 yards, 2:47							
play							
HOU TD 8:29							
D'Eriq King 1 Yd Run (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)				0	14		
4 plays, 40 yards, 0:49							
play							
HOU TD 4:43							
Romello Brooker 52 Yd pass from D'Eriq King (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)				0	21		
5 plays, 63 yards, 1:12							
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>							
HOU FG 12:38							
Dalton Witherspoon 35 Yd Field Goal				0	24		
12 plays, 47 yards, 2:52							
HOU TD 3:44							
Bryson Smith 13 Yd pass from D'Eriq King (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)				0	31		
9 plays, 75 yards, 1:53							
play							
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>							
HOU TD 12:09							
Keith Corbin 18 Yd pass from D'Eriq King (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)				0	38		
6 plays, 64 yards, 1:35							
play							
ARIZ FG 3:16							
Lucas Havrisik 49 Yd Field Goal				3	38		
9 plays, 49 yards, 3:05							
ARIZ TD 0:11							
Darrius Smith 1 Yd Run (Lucas Havrisik Kick)				10	38		
6 plays, 74 yards, 1:47							
play							
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>							
ARIZ TD 11:05							
Khalil Tate 2 Yd Run (Lucas Havrisik PAT failed)				16	38		
10 plays, 75 yards, 3:22							
ARIZ SF 6:35							
Colin Schooler Safety				18	38		
1 play, -1 yard, 0:06							
HOU TD 1:48							
D'Eriq King 4 Yd Run (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)				18	45		
6 plays, 95 yards, 3:17							
<b>Team Stats</b>							
First Downs		ARIZ		HOU			
Total Yards		30		29			
Total Plays		531		551			
Avg Gain Per Play		101		80			
Net Yards Rushing		5.3		6.9			
Net Yards Passing		150		297			
Comp-Att		50		40			
Yards Per Pass		3.0		7.4			
Times Sacked		381		254			
Yds Lost To Sacks		28-51		19-40			
Interceptions		7.5		6.4			
Punts		0		1			
Punt Average		0		-2			
Penalties		2		0			
Penalty Yards		6		6			
Fumbles		0.0		0.0			
Fumbles Lost		8		7			
Possession		85		56			
		1		0			
		0		0			
		35:21		24:39			
<b>Individual Stats</b>							
<b>RUSHING</b>							
ARIZ	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
J.J. Taylor	18	54	3.0	0	13		
Darrius Smith	11	51	4.6	1	14		
Gary Brightwell	13	39	3.0	0	9		
Khalil Tate	7	8	1.1	1	7		
Rhett Rodriguez	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		
HOU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Terence Williams	12	65	5.4	0	25		
Patrick Carr	8	62	7.8	0	39		
Marquez Stevenson	1	60	60.0	0	60		
Kevrin Justice	6	45	7.5	0	20		
D'Eriq King	5	31	6.2	2	16		
Mulbah Car	6	28	4.7	0	18		
Keith Corbin	1	4	4.0	0	4		
Bryson Smith	1	2	2.0	0	2		
<b>PASSING</b>							
ARIZ	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Khalil Tate	24	45	341	7.6	0	2	39.9
Rhett Rodriguez	4	5	40	8.0	0	0	75.4
HOU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
D'Eriq King	17	34	246	7.2	4	0	91.3
Quinten Dormady	2	5	8	1.6	0	0	9.2
Bryson Smith	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.5
<b>RECEIVING</b>							
ARIZ	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Shawn Poindexter	7	134	19.1	0	30		
Tony Ellison	4	85	21.3	0	46		
Shun Brown	9	73	8.1	0	14		
Stanley Berryhill III	1	28	28.0	0	28		
Jamie Nunley	2	21	10.5	0	11		
Devaughn Cooper	1	16	16.0	0	16		
Bryce Wolma	2	13	6.5	0	11		
Cedric Peterson	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Darrius Smith	1	3	3.0	0	3		
HOU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Romello Brooker	2	76	38.0	1	52		
Keith Corbin	3	44	14.7	1	19		
Courtney Lark	4	44	11.0	0	22		
Marquez Stevenson	2	40	20.0	1	24		
Bryson Smith	4	29	7.3	1	13		
Terry Mark	2	11	5.5	0	7		
Jeremy Singleton	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Julon Williams	1	4	4.0	0	4		