

WEEK TWO
 ARKANSAS STATE AT ALABAMA

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. -- Tua Tagovailoa got Alabama rolling with a long touchdown pass, then another and another. Then he handed the reins to Jalen Hurts for pretty much more of the same.

Tagovailoa passed for three first-quarter touchdowns and Hurts added two more before halftime, a quarterback duet that was good enough to lead the top-ranked Crimson Tide to a 57-7 victory over Arkansas State on Saturday.

The Tide (2-0) racked up big plays on the way to a 40-0 half-time lead while rotating the quarterbacks who battled for the job throughout the offseason. Coach Nick Saban officially announced Tagovailoa would remain the starter Monday, but both were big parts of the plan again.

"I think that both guys did a really good job," Saban said. "I think both guys played well. We made some big plays in the passing game, were pretty efficient."

Again.

It's the first time since 1925 Alabama has scored 50-plus points in each of its first two games. The combined six touchdown passes total was tied for second-most in Alabama history, matching Hurts and Tagovailoa's tally against Mercer last season.

Neither quarterback was made available to reporters after the game.

Tagovailoa finished 13 of 19 for 228 yards and four TDs. He led seven drives and tossed in runs of 15 and 12 yards in the second half. Tagovailoa had TD passes of 58 yards to Jerry Jeudy, 31 to Henry Ruggs III and 41 to DeVonta Smith -- all in the first quarter -- and tacked on a 14-yarder to Derek Kief.

Hurts, who started the past two seasons, was effective, too. He was 7 of 9 for 93 yards and rebounded strongly after losing a fumble at the goal line after taking a hit while airborne.

"It's tough to hold onto the ball when you're getting helicoptered like that," left tackle Jonah Williams said. "For him to be able to bounce back and drive us down the field, that's just what we've come to expect from him."

Najee Harris ran for a career-high 135 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries.

Justice Hansen couldn't get the Red Wolves' fast-paced offense going against the Tide defense. He was 15 of 36 for 140 yards with a touchdown and interception after tying a school-record with six touchdown passes last week.

Alabama outgained Arkansas State 599-391 in total yards.

"Considerably the best team I've seen in pads or on film in a long time," Red Wolves coach Blake Anderson said. "I talked to Coach Saban before the game, asked him if he knew of any weaknesses, but he didn't share any with me."

THE TAKEAWAY

Arkansas State: Sun Belt Conference favorites couldn't muster a challenge, a 1a league mate Appalachian State versus Penn State last week. The Red Wolves didn't quit, failing on an onside kick attempt after opening the third quarter with a touchdown drive featuring a 25-yard catch by Hansen from wide receiver Darveon Brown.

Alabama: Had the feel of a name-your-score type game early. It's unclear how long the Tide will keep rotating quarterbacks, but Joseph Bulovas might be the new placekicker. Tide has outscored its first two opponents 108-21.

HAVE "NOTS"

Cornerback Saivion Smith returned an interception 38 yards for the final touchdown before the half. It was the Tide's third non-offensive touchdown of the season already and second pick-six.

HERE'S THE KICKER

Alabama's new kicker, Austin Jones, had his second and third missed extra point attempts in the first half. Tide students cheered when Bulovas made his first PAT try. He also made a 39-yard field goal.

INJURY UPDATE

Defensive lineman Isaiah Buggs aggravated an ankle injury sustained last week and could have returned, if needed, Saban said. He said backup cornerback Jaylen Armour-Davis suffered a knee injury in pre-game warmups and said "it doesn't seem good."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ARKST	0	0	7	0	7
ALA	19	21	10	7	57

Scoring Summary -----

	ARKST	ALA
FIRST QUARTER		
ALA TD 13:19		
Jerry Jeudy 58 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Austin Jones Kick)	0	7
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:41		
ALA TD 11:30		
Henry Ruggs III 31 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Austin Jones PAT failed)	0	13
2 plays, 31 yards, 0:12		
ALA TD 3:00		
DeVonta Smith 41 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Austin Jones PAT failed)	0	19
7 plays, 70 yards, 2:44		
SECOND QUARTER		
ALA TD 8:52		
Irv Smith Jr. 10 Yd pass from Jalen Hurts (Joseph Bulovas Kick)	0	26
7 plays, 63 yards, 2:40		
ALA TD 7:43		
Jerry Jeudy 7 Yd pass from Jalen Hurts (Joseph Bulovas Kick)	0	33
3 plays, 52 yards, 0:42		
ALA TD 6:44		
Saivion Smith 38 Yd Interception Return (Joseph Bulovas Kick)	0	40
2 plays, 15 yards, 0:59		
THIRD QUARTER		
ARKST TD 12:28		
Kendrick Edwards 23 Yd pass from Justice Hansen (Sawyer Williams Kick)	7	40
8 plays, 75 yards, 2:32		
ALA FG 9:46		
Joseph Bulovas 39 Yd Field Goal	7	43
6 plays, 23 yards, 2:42		
ALA TD 1:30		
Derek Kief 14 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Joseph Bulovas Kick)	7	50
15 plays, 89 yards, 7:01		
FOURTH QUARTER		
ALA TD 12:06		
Najee Harris 1 Yd Run (Joseph Bulovas Kick)	7	57
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:34		

Team Stats	ARKST	ALA
First Downs	19	26
Total Yards	391	599
Total Plays	82	73
Avg Gain Per Play	4.8	8.2
Net Yards Rushing	173	278
Rushes	31	44
Yards Per Rush	5.6	6.3
Net Yards Passing	218	321
Comp-Att	22-51	20-29
Yards Per Pass	4.3	11.1
Times Sacked	2	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-10	-7
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	8	4
Punt Average	39.9	35.0
Penalties	10	4
Penalty Yards	84	35
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	28:16	31:44

Individual Stats

RUSHING

ARKST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
6 Warren Wand	11	60	5.5	22	0
2 Armond Weh-Weh	4	45	11.3	40	0
34 Marcel Murray	7	34	4.9	12	0
12 Logan Bonner	3	28	9.3	11	0
15 Justice Hansen	6	6	1.0	10	0
ALA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
22 Najee Harris	13	135	10.4	26	1
34 Damien Harris	12	61	5.1	17	0
2 Jalen Hurts	5	32	6.4	15	0
13 Tua Tagovailoa	4	20	5.0	15	0
24 Brian Robinson Jr.	5	16	3.2	8	0
8 Josh Jacobs	5	14	2.8	10	0

PASSING

ARKST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Justice Hansen	15	36	140	3.9	1	1	77.9
12 Logan Bonner	6	14	53	3.8	0	0	74.7
17 Darveon Brown	1	1	25	25.0	0	0	310.0
ALA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Tua Tagovailoa	13	19	228	12.0	4	0	238.7
2 Jalen Hurts	7	9	93	10.3	2	0	237.9
10 Mac Jones	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

RECEIVING

ARKST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
7 Omar Bayless	3	36	12.0	15	0
13 Kirk Merritt	5	29	5.8	20	0
2 Armond Weh-Weh	1	26	26.0	26	0
82 Brandon Bowling	5	25	5.0	7	0
15 Justice Hansen	1	25	25.0	25	0
5 Kendrick Edwards	1	23	23.0	23	1
18 Justin McInnis	2	20	10.0	11	0
6 Warren Wand	2	19	9.5	14	0
81 Javonis Isaac	1	8	8.0	8	0
87 Reed Tyler	1	7	7.0	7	0
ALA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
4 Jerry Jeudy	4	87	21.8	58	2
6 DeVonta Smith	3	77	25.7	41	1
11 Henry Ruggs III	3	56	18.7	31	1
82 Irv Smith Jr.	4	41	10.3	22	1
8 Josh Jacobs	3	23	7.7	10	0
34 Damien Harris	1	14	14.0	14	0
81 Derek Kief	1	14	14.0	14	1
17 Jaylen Waddle	1	9	9.0	9	0