

WEEK Three  
AKRON AT NORTHWESTERN

EVANSTON, Ill. -- Kato Nelson tossed two touchdown passes, Alvin Davis returned two interceptions for touchdowns, and Akron rallied from an 18-point deficit for a 39-34 victory over Northwestern on Saturday night.

Nelson was 17 for 28 for 277 yards and added 37 yards rushing. Kwadarrarius Smith had six receptions for 90 yards and Andrew Williams had 85 yards on three catches for Akron (2-0).

Clayton Thorson completed 33 of 52 passes for a career-high 383 yards with three TDs for Northwestern (1-2), but threw two interceptions and lost a fumble on a strip-sack in the second half that resulted in Akron scores.

Jeremy Larkin added 82 yards rushing and two touchdowns on 22 carries for the Wildcats.

With a 21-yard TD pass to Cameron Green with seven seconds left in the first half, Thorson became NU's all-time leader in TD passes with 45. He had been tied with Brett Basanez (2002-05) and Len Williams (1990-93).

The win was Akron's first over a Big Ten team since the program moved up to 1-A (FBS) in 1987.

The Zips, who trailed 21-3 at halftime, charged out of the locker room to score 23 points in the third quarter -- including Davis' 97-yard interception return for a TD -- to pull within 28-26 entering the fourth.

Ulysees Gilbert III's recovery of Thorson's fumble in the end zone gave the Zips a 32-28 lead, their first of the game. A two-point conversion attempt was unsuccessful.

Akron put the game away when Davis hauled in a tipped pass from Thorson and returned it 50 yards for a TD and a 39-28 lead.

THE TAKEAWAY

Akron: The Zips rallied for the win despite a slew of mistakes -- a poor snap on a punt and 15 penalties -- to set up NU scores. But three defensive scores in the second half will make up for a lot of mistakes.

Northwestern: The Wildcats have dropped two straight following a nine-game winning streak and looked awful in both, especially in the second half on Saturday. The offense remains inconsistent and the defense struggled in the second half. They have an open date next week to work out the kinks before a big test against Michigan.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
AKRON	0	3	23	13	39
NW	7	14	7	6	34

Scoring Summary -----

Quarter	Time	Team	Score
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>			
NW	TD 6:52		
	J. Larkin run for 7 yds for a TD, (C. Kuhbender KICK)	AKRON	NW
	1 play, 7 yards, 0:06	0	7
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>			
NW	TD 7:21		
	J. Larkin run for 5 yds for a TD, (C. Kuhbender KICK)	AKRON	NW
	7 plays, 73 yards, 3:22	0	14
	AKRON FG 0:39		
	N. Gasser 37 yd FG GOOD	3	14
	5 plays, 48 yards, 1:04		
NW	TD 0:07		
	C. Thorson pass, to C. Green for 21 yds for a TD, (C. Kuhbender KICK)	AKRON	NW
	6 plays, 56 yards, 0:31	3	21
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>			
	AKRON FG 11:50		
	N. Gasser 24 yd FG GOOD	6	21
	9 plays, 68 yards, 3:10		
	AKRON TD 6:49		
	K. Nelson pass, to A. Williams for 25 yds for a TD, (N. Gasser KICK)	13	21
	9 plays, 80 yards, 4:11		
	AKRON TD 3:14		
	C. Thorson pass intercepted for a TD, A. Davis return for 97 yds for a TD, (Two-point Conversion failed)		
	10 plays, 56 yards, 3:30	19	21
NW	TD 1:08		
	C. Thorson pass, to C. Green for 13 yds for a TD, (C. Kuhbender KICK)	AKRON	NW
	9 plays, 74 yards, 2:01	19	28
	AKRON TD 0:24		
	K. Nelson pass, to M. Wolfley for 24 yds for a TD, (N. Gasser KICK)	26	28
	2 plays, 75 yards, 0:44		
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>			
	AKRON TD 8:28		
	C. Thorson sacked by J. Ward for -8 yds, C. Thorson fumbled, recovered by Akron U. Gilbert III, for a TD, (K. Nelson fumbled)		
	4 plays, -3 yards, 1:25	32	28
	AKRON TD 7:24		
	C. Thorson pass intercepted for a TD, A. Davis return for 50 yds for a TD, (N. Gasser KICK)		
	3 plays, 11 yards, 0:59	39	28
NW	TD 2:21		
	C. Thorson pass, to B. Skowronek for 24 yds for a TD, (Two-point Conversion failed)		
	8 plays, 69 yards, 1:21	39	34

Team Stats	AKRON	NW
First Downs	13	26
Total Yards	390	490
Total Plays	64	92
Avg Gain Per Play	6.1	5.3
Net Yards Rushing	113	95
Rushes	36	35
Yards Per Rush	3.1	2.7
Net Yards Passing	277	395
Comp-Att	17-28	36-57
Yards Per Pass	9.9	6.9
Times Sacked	2	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-12	0
Interceptions	0	2
Punts	5	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	15	3
Penalty Yards	140	35
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Possession	30:10	29:50

Individual Stats

RUSHING					
AKRON	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Van Edwards Jr.	14	53	3.8	0	21
Kato Nelson	15	37	2.5	0	13
Deltron Sands	3	14	4.7	0	13
Kwadarrarius Smith	2	6	3.0	0	4
Mykel Traylor-Bennett	1	0	0.0	0	0
Team	1	-20	-20.0	0	0
NW	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Jeremy Larkin	22	82	3.7	2	9
TJ Green	3	16	5.3	0	12
John Moten IV	5	12	2.4	0	5
Isaiah Bowser	1	0	0.0	0	0
Kyric McGowan	1	-4	-4.0	0	0
Clayton Thorson	4	-20	-5.0	0	3

PASSING

AKRON	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kato Nelson	17	28	277	9.9	2	0	167.4
NW	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Clayton Thorson	33	52	383	7.4	3	2	135.7
TJ Green	4	6	22	3.7	0	0	97.5

RECEIVING

AKRON	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Kwadarrarius Smith	6	90	15.0	0	40
Andre Williams	3	85	28.3	1	56
Jonah Morris	3	51	17.0	0	43
Maverick Wolfley	1	24	24.0	1	24
Nate Stewart	3	22	7.3	0	9
Mykel Traylor-Bennett	1	5	5.0	0	5
NW	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Cameron Green	11	125	11.4	2	21
Bennett Skowronek	7	88	12.6	1	24
Jeremy Larkin	8	52	6.5	0	16
Kyric McGowan	1	43	43.0	0	43
Flynn Nagel	3	35	11.7	0	18
Charlie Fessler	2	26	13.0	0	15
Ramaud Chiaokhiao-Bowman	3	19	6.3	0	9
John Moten IV	2	17	8.5	0	10