

WEEK Three
WESTERN KENTUCKY AT LOUISVILLE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- Malik Cunningham might have earned the quarter-back job with a second consecutive rescue of Louisville's offense. Running back Dae Williams is also due a reward for finishing drives that saved the Cardinals against Western Kentucky.

Williams rushed for a pair of 1-yard touchdowns in the fourth quarter, including the go-ahead score with 5:01 remaining, as Louisville rallied from a 14-0 deficit to beat the in-state rival Hilltoppers 20-17 on Saturday night.

A week after leading Louisville (2-1) to four second-half scoring drives to beat FCS Indiana State 31-7, Cunningham did it again against WKU (0-3). That wasn't easy against a Hilltoppers squad not only determined to overcome last week's collapse against FCS Maine, but earn some Bluegrass bragging rights.

At times Cunningham offered glimpses of his famous Cardinals predecessor, 2016 Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson, with his runs and throws. He rushed 21 times for 129 yards and completed 10 of 18 passes for 88 yards, using his arm and feet on the pivotal drive with a 16-yard pass and back-to-back carries for 22 yards.

Williams added an 11-yard run to the 1 before scoring the winning TD on the way to finishing with 58 yards rushing on nine carries. But Cunningham set the tone, even though he again downplayed questions about being the starter.

"That's my job: come off the bench, and whenever my name is called, be ready," Cunningham said. "I'm always going to be ready."

WKU had one last chance and drove to Louisville's 34 to set up Ryan Nuss' 51-yard field-goal attempt to tie the game. His low kick sailed wide right as time expired, leaving the Hilltoppers to grasp with a second consecutive close loss after leading by double digits. They blew a 21-0 lead in a 31-28 loss to FCS Maine last week.

"We've got to find ways to allow us to finish games," WKU coach Mike Sanford said. "That's two weeks in a row we've let them get away from us and, starting with me, we've got to find a way to put teams away."

Louisville beat WKU for the 10th consecutive time in the series and gave coach Bobby Petrino the victory against the school he coached in 2013 before returning the next year for a second stint with the Cardinals.

Doing so involved more drama than he preferred.

"We came up with some big plays when it was needed. ... just enough to win the game," said Petrino, whose team won despite being outgained in total yards 428-292. "There's no question about it that we need to improve."

IAKOPO INJURED

Louisville senior safety London Iakopo was carted off the field with 3:42 left with what Petrino described as an upper body injury. Iakopo was injured while tackling WKU's Joshua Samuel after an 11-yard run to the right sideline. Players and coaches surrounded Iakopo as medical personnel tended to him before he was strapped to a flat board and placed on a cart. Iakopo was cheered as he left the field. Petrino later said Iakopo's arms and legs were moving.

THE TAKEAWAY

Western Kentucky: Steven Duncan started at QB in place of Drew Eckels before soon being replaced by Davis Shanley, who positioned the Hilltoppers for the upset. He completed 22 of 33 passes for 240 yards, rushed and threw for a touchdown and completed several key passes during a fourth-quarter drive ending in Nuss' 35-yard field goal for a 17-13 edge. Shanley was also sacked three times, including a nine-yard loss on which WKU turned the ball over on downs.

"I thought we were in a pretty good position to win this game," Shanley said. "I have to do some things better. We have to do some things better."

Louisville: Heroics by Cunningham and Williams did little to mask obvious concerns for the Cardinals. Besides being outgained, they allowed WKU to control the ball for 35:24 and convert 9 of 17 third-down opportunities. They were 2 of 11 on the money down. On the other hand, special teams blocked a field goal leading to Williams' first TD, while the defense held WKU after the Cardinals finally went ahead.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WKU	7	7	0	3	17
LOU	0	3	3	14	20

Scoring Summary -----

	WKU	LOU
FIRST QUARTER		
WKU TD 0:07		
D. Shanley pass, to K. Fourtenbary for 9 yds for a TD, (R. Nuss KICK)	7	0
16 plays, 80 yards, 7:13		
SECOND QUARTER		
WKU TD 12:40		
D. Shanley run for 3 yds for a TD, (R. Nuss KICK)	14	0
2 plays, 31 yards, 0:45		
LOU FG 0:13		
B. Creque 23 yd FG GOOD	14	3
12 plays, 81 yards, 2:46		
THIRD QUARTER		
LOU FG 9:07		
B. Creque 23 yd FG GOOD	14	6
8 plays, 61 yards, 3:25		
FOURTH QUARTER		
LOU TD 14:23		
D. Williams run for 1 yd for a TD, (B. Creque KICK)	14	13
7 plays, 31 yards, 3:12		
WKU FG 8:14		
R. Nuss 35 yd FG GOOD	17	13
14 plays, 68 yards, 6:09		
LOU TD 5:01		
D. Williams run for 1 yd for a TD, (B. Creque KICK)	17	20
8 plays, 75 yards, 3:13		

Team Stats	WKU	LOU
First Downs	24	15
Total Yards	429	293
Total Plays	81	59
Avg Gain Per Play	5.3	5.0
Net Yards Rushing	169	205
Rushes	43	38
Yards Per Rush	3.9	5.4
Net Yards Passing	260	88
Comp-Att	25-38	10-21
Yards Per Pass	6.8	4.2
Times Sacked	1	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-6	-20
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	4	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	8	5
Penalty Yards	69	40
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	35:23	24:36

Individual Stats

RUSHING

WKU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
D'Andre Ferby	16	74	4.6	0	14
Joshua Samuel	7	46	6.6	0	17
Garland LaFrance	5	34	6.8	0	16
Davis Shanley	11	8	0.7	1	8
Steven Duncan	2	4	2.0	0	3
Marquez Trigg	1	2	2.0	0	2
Gino Appleberry Jr.	1	0	0.0	0	0
LOU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Malik Cunningham	21	129	6.1	0	17
Dae Williams	9	58	6.4	2	21
Hassan Hall	1	10	10.0	0	10
Marcus Riley	1	9	9.0	0	9
Colin Wilson	2	2	1.0	0	3
Jeremy Smith	2	-2	-1.0	0	0
Jawon Pass	2	-2	-1.0	0	4

PASSING

WKU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Davis Shanley	22	33	240	7.3	1	0	137.8
Steven Duncan	3	5	20	4.0	0	1	53.6
LOU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Malik Cunningham	10	18	88	4.9	0	0	96.6
Jawon Pass	0	3	0	0.0	0	1	-66.7

RECEIVING

WKU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Quin Jernighan	4	66	16.5	0	28
Lucky Jackson	4	56	14.0	0	36
Jacquez Sloan	3	41	13.7	0	17
Kyle Fourtenbary	5	34	6.8	1	9
Mik'Quan Deane	2	29	14.5	0	31
Garland LaFrance	5	20	4.0	0	7
Gino Appleberry Jr.	1	12	12.0	0	12
D'Andre Ferby	1	2	2.0	0	2
LOU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Jaylen Smith	3	38	12.7	0	31
Dez Fitzpatrick	2	21	10.5	0	17
Devante Peete	2	17	8.5	0	9
Seth Dawkins	1	16	16.0	0	16
Dae Williams	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jeremy Smith	1	-4	-4.0	0	0