

**WEEK THREE
RUTGERS AT KANSAS**

Takeaways, run game lead Kansas to 55-14 blowout of Rutgers

LAWRENCE, Kan. Six takeaways, including two pick-6s, and an explosive running game carried Kansas to a 55-14 blowout over Rutgers on Saturday, marking the Jayhawks' first back-to-back wins over FBS opponents since 2009.

Bryce Torneden and Mike Lee each returned interceptions for touchdowns as the Scarlet Knights threw three picks and surrendered three fumbles. Couple that with the dominant performance on the ground, and you get a performance that surprised even coach David Beaty.

"I didn't see this coming against these guys because they are a very talent-rich football team and I've said so many times how good of a coach Chris Ash is," Beaty said. "It was our day. Sometimes, it becomes your day."

Turnovers plagued the Scarlet Knights from the start, as Torneden jumped in front of a Sitkowski pass on just Rutgers' second drive and returned it 39 yards for the game's first touchdown. Torneden was there again the next time out, recovering a fumble by Jonathan Hilliman that set up a field goal.

Early in the second quarter, Lee picked off a Sitkowski pass on the sideline and scored to open a 24-7 lead, weaving his way laterally across the field 31 yards to the end zone in an effort that looked more reminiscent of a punt-return score.

"When the quarterback threw the ball, I felt like I had to make a play," Lee said. "And that's what I did."

True freshman Pooka Williams was the star on offense, the leader of a group of several backs for Kansas that rushed for 400 yards and scored four times. Finishing with 158 yards - including a 52-yard touchdown run - Williams now has 283 yards and three touchdowns in his first two college games.

"It's crazy," teammate Dom Williams said of Pooka. "It's incredible, especially just how fast he is."

Both Miles Kendrick and Peyton Bender saw time at quarterback for Kansas, but Kendrick carved out a much larger role than in weeks prior thanks to some strong play. After seeing consistent work in the first half, Kendrick started the third quarter and never saw the bench again.

"It was just a matter of time as to when we were going to use those packages and see if they were creating some success for us," Beaty said. "And he had a pretty good command of it from what we saw from the sidelines. So it really worked out that way."

Kendrick was responsible for the Jayhawks' lone score through the air, a goal-line fade to Jeremiah Booker, who lost his shoe while landing in the corner of the end zone. Kendrick also ran for an 8-yard score in the third.

Special teams was one of few bright spots for Rutgers, as Deonte Roberts blocked a Kansas field goal try in the first quarter and took it 64 yards for the touchdown. The Scarlet Knights blocked another field goal later in the quarter, but didn't get any points out of it.

Sitkowski finished the game with just 47 yards and three interceptions before being replaced by Gio Rescigno in the third quarter. Raheem Blackshear led Rutgers in rushing with 102 yards, and Hilliman added a score on the ground as well.

QUARTERBACK QUANDARY

Sitkowski's status for this weekend was in question all week after taking a vicious hit against Ohio State last week, but he started for Rutgers. His lackluster performance soon resulted in the call for Rescigno, though, and the senior captain responded, throwing for 30 more yards than Sitkowski on seven fewer attempts.

TURNOVER TURNAROUND

The Jayhawks finished with six takeaways, putting them at 13 on the year after forcing six last weekend against Central Michigan. They only had nine throughout the entire 2017 season.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't really remember too clearly," Torneden said of his pick-6. "It's kind of surreal, honestly. Felt like I was playing Madden or something."

RING OF HONOR

Former Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing was inducted into the Ring of Honor after the first quarter, his name placed between former teammates Aqib Talib and Chris Harris Jr.

In his four years in Lawrence, Reesing threw for over 11,000 yards and 90 touchdowns, and led the Jayhawks to wins in both the 2008 Orange Bowl and the 2009 Insight Bowl.

THE TAKEAWAY

Kansas: Is 2-1 for the first time since 2014. Optimism is running high among the Jayhawk faithful, as the team rolls into Big 12 play with a winning record. 88 Jeremiah Booker
26 Deron Thompson

Final	1	2	3	4	T
RUTG	7	7	0	0	14
KU	17	14	10	14	55

Scoring Summary -----

	RUTG	KU
FIRST QUARTER		
KU FG 11:22 Gabriel Rui 49 Yd Field Goal		3
6 plays, 41 yards, 1:57	0	
KU TD 10:30 Bryce Torneden 39 Yd Interception Return (Gabriel Rui Kick)3 plays, 6 yards, 0:52	0	10
RUTGTD 9:06 Deonte Roberts 64 Yd Return of Blocked Field Goal (Justin Davidovicz Kick)4 plays, 3 yards, 1:03	7	10
KU TD 4:46 Jeremiah Booker 6 Yd pass from Miles Kendrick (Gabriel Rui Kick)10 plays, 75 yards, 4:20	7	17
second Quarter		
KU TD 14:10 Mike Lee 31 Yd Interception Return (Gabriel Rui Kick) 2 plays, 2 yards, 0:50	7	24
RUTG TD 3:07 Jonathan Hilliman 2 Yd Run (Justin Davidovicz Kick) 9 plays, 86 yards, 2:58	14	24
KU TD 2:29 Khalil Herbert 59 Yd Run (Gabriel Rui Kick) 2 plays, 75 yards, 0:38	14	31
third Quarter		
KU TD 6:08 Miles Kendrick 8 Yd Run (Gabriel Rui Kick) 5 plays, 25 yards, 1:34	14	38
KU FG 3:38 Gabriel Rui 34 Yd Field Goal 5 plays, 19 yards, 1:21	14	41
fourth Quarter		
KU TD 14:51 Pooka Williams Jr. 52 Yd Run (Liam Jones Kick) 5 plays, 66 yards, 2:09	14	48
KU TD 9:28 Deron Thompson 55 Yd Run (Liam Jones Kick) 6 plays, 82 yards, 2:59	14	55

Team Stats	RUTG	KU
First Downs	12	21
Total Yards	274	544
Total Plays	64	73
Avg Gain Per Play	4.3	7.5
Net Yards Rushing	150	400
Rushes	33	48
Yards Per Rush	4.5	8.3
Net Yards Passing	124	144
Comp-Att	14-31	15-25
Yards Per Pass	4.0	5.8
Times Sacked	0	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	0
Interceptions	3	0
Punts	7	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	7
Penalty Yards	60	65
Fumbles	3	1
Fumbles Lost	3	0
Possession	25:43	34:17

Individual Stats

RUSHING

RUT	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
2 Raheem Blackshear	19	102	5.4	23	0
23 Jonathan Hilliman	11	44	4.0	9	1
17 Giovanni Rescigno	2	5	2.5	3	0
KU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
1 Pooka Williams Jr.	18	158	8.8	52	1
26 Deron Thompson	3	70	23.3	55	1
10 Khalil Herbert	2	64	32.0	59	1
25 Dom Williams	9	39	4.3	11	0
8 Miles Kendrick	6	28	4.7	9	1
9 Carter Stanley	3	26	8.7	20	0
32 Reese Randall	2	11	5.5	7	0
39 Ryan Malbrough	3	10	3.3	5	0
7 Peyton Bender	1	0	0.0	0	0
35 Caperton Humphrey	0	0	-	-	0

PASSING

RUT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Giovanni Rescigno	7	12	77	6.4	0	0	112.2
Artur Sitkowski	7	19	47	2.5	0	3	26.0
KU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Peyton Bender	8	12	73	6.1	0	0	117.8
Miles Kendrick	6	11	66	6.0	0	0	134.9
Carter Stanley	1	1	5	5.0	0	0	142.0
Pooka Williams Jr.	0	1	0.0	0	0	0	0.0

RECEIVING

RUT	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
21 Eddie Lewis	4	43	10.8	26	0
88 Jerome Washington	3	41	13.7	19	0
6 Mohamed Jabbar	1	14	14.0	14	0
23 Jonathan Hilliman	1	12	12.0	12	0
18 Bo Melton	2	7	3.5	5	0
89 Travis Vokolek	1	7	7.0	7	0
2 Raheem Blackshear	2	0	0.0	1	0
KU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
88 Jeremiah Booker	3	32	10.7	25	1
14 Kerr Johnson Jr.	3	25	8.3	22	0
11 Steven Sims Jr.	2	22	11.0	11	0
Stephon Robinson Jr.	1	16	16.0	16	0
35 Caperton Humphrey	1	15	15.0	15	0
10 Khalil Herbert	2	13	6.5	14	0
16 Takulve Williams	1	11	11.0	11	0
1 Pooka Williams Jr.	1	5	5.0	5	0
26 Deron Thompson	1	5	5.0	5	0
Kwamie Lassiter II	0	0	-	-	0