

By Kurt Kragthorpe

Logan · In a successful effort to draw 6,000 students to Maverik Stadium and keep them there until the fourth quarter Saturday night, Utah State administrators awarded a dozen \$500 prizes.

The strategy worked, as the lure of money managed to maintain their interest in the game. Unfortunately for the Aggies, so did Air Force's comeback.

In the end, though, Gerold Bright's 70-yard touchdown run helped USU secure a 42-32 victory in a late-night Mountain West opener in front of 22,700 fans at Maverik Stadium.

The Aggies (3-1) needed this win to justify their hopes of winning a division title and to keep themselves from stewing during a bye week in advance of an Oct. 5 game at BYU.

USU had dropped three straight games to the Falcons, finding a frustrating way lose in each case. Last November in Colorado Springs, USU missed a chance to clinch a winning record in the regular-season finale, allowing Air Force to drive for a go-ahead score and then failing to complete a promising drive in response.

This time, USU quarterback Jordan Love's 356-yard passing night was enough to deliver a win - with help from Bright and the Aggie defense.

Love was confident his offense could move the ball against Air Force, leaving one big variable in play: "We just have to finish the game in the fourth quarter," he said in a Monday news conference, "unlike last year."

As this game unfolded, it seemed unlikely that Love and the Aggies would have to agonize in the fourth quarter. But they sure did, after losing almost all of a 21-point lead in about 10 minutes.

The Aggies steadied themselves just enough. After Bright's run, USU defensive lineman Adewale Adeoye stuffed Air Force quarterback Isaiah Sanders on a fourth-and-1 play at the Aggie 16-yard line with 2:10 remaining.

After USU ran the ball three times, Taylor Hintze produced a 67-yard punt to the AFA 13. The Falcons then turned the ball over on downs.

Wearing specially made Aggie jerseys, Jazz players Donovan Mitchell, Royce O'Neale and Georges Niang stood on the USU sideline during the first half, and the home team came through for them at the end of the half.

And then started playing even better without those guys watching - building a 35-14 lead, only to have Air Force rally.

The Falcons got within 35-32 and drove to midfield in the fourth quarter, before having to punt. And then Bright broke loose through the right side and ran down the sideline to the end zone, preventing the Aggies from having to explain what happened against Air Force this time.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
AFA	0	14	3	15	32
USU	7	14	14	7	42

**Scoring Summary -----**

	AFA	USU
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
USU TD 9:18 D. Thompson run for 6 yds for a TD, (D. Eberle KICK)	0	7
7 plays, 62 yards, 1:34		
<b>Second Quarter</b>		
AFA TD 13:48 I. Sanders run for 1 yd for a TD, (M. Philichi KICK)	7	7
11 plays, 82 yards, 3:57		
AFA TD 7:13 C. Fagan run for 8 yds for a TD, (M. Philichi KICK)	14	7
15 plays, 62 yards, 6:12		
USU TD 6:18 Gerold Bright 4 Yd Run (Dominik Eberle Kick)	14	14
5 plays, 66 yards, 0:44		
USU TD 1:02 Aaren Vaughns 43 Yd pass from Jordan Love (Dominik Eberle Kick) 3 plays, 77 yards, 0:26	14	21
<b>Third Quarter</b>		
USU TD 9:04 D. Thompson run for 1 yd for a TD, (D. Eberle KICK)	14	28
11 plays, 77 yards, 2:51		
USU TD 8:15 J. Love pass, to D. Raymond for 30 yds for a TD, (D. Eberle KICK) 1 play, 30 yards, 0:09	14	35
AFA FG 2:48 J. Koehnke 31 yd FG GOOD 14 plays, 61 yards, 5:20	17	35
<b>Fourth Quarter</b>		
AFA TD 13:13 K. Remsberg run for 9 yds for a TD, (D. Hammond III pass to K. Waguespack for Two-Point Conversion) 10 plays, 77 yards, 3:15	25	35
AFA TD 13:00 J. Koehnke kick for 65 yds, S. Scarver return for 21 yds, S. Scarver fumbled, forced by C. Musselman, recovered by AFA C. Musselman, C. Musselman return 0 plays, 0 yds, 0:13 31	35	35
USU TD 6:52 G. Bright run for 70 yds for a TD, (D. Eberle KICK) 3 plays, 80 yards, 0:41	32	42

Team Stats	AFA	USU
First Downs	32	27
Total Yards	463	495
Total Plays	102	56
Avg Gain Per Play	4.5	8.8
Net Yards Rushing	322	133
Rushes	84	19
Yards Per Rush	3.8	7.0
Net Yards Passing	141	362
Comp-Att	10-18	25-37
Yards Per Pass	7.8	9.8
Times Sacked	0	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-6
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	5	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	6
Penalty Yards	35	50
Fumbles	2	2
Fumbles Lost	1	2
<b>Possession</b>	<b>42:58</b>	<b>14:57</b>

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

AFA	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
24 Kadin Remsberg	17	94	5.5	15	1
4 Isaiah Sanders	24	61	2.5	10	1
34 Cole Fagan	17	59	3.5	12	1
3 Ronald Cleveland	7	44	6.3	15	0
19 Nolan Eriksen	6	28	4.7	13	0
2 Arion Worthman	8	25	3.1	14	0
25 Christian Mallard	4	12	3.0	7	0
USU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
8 Gerold Bright	10	98	9.8	70	2
5 Darwin Thompson	6	35	5.8	11	2
10 Jordan Love	5	2	0.4	6	0

**PASSING**

AFA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
4 Isaiah Sanders	7	13	94	7.2	0	0	114.6
2 Arion Worthman	3	5	47	9.4	0	0	139.0
USU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
10 Jordan Love	25	37	362	9.8	2	0	167.6

**RECEIVING**

AFA	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
8 Marcus Bennett	4	66	16.5	29	0
3 Ronald Cleveland	4	43	10.8	17	0
7 Geraud Sanders	2	32	16.0	24	0
USU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
1 Ron'Quavion Tarver	8	128	16.0	46	0
87 Dax Raymond	4	68	17.0	30	1
21 Jalen Greene	4	48	12.0	15	0
11 Aaren Vaughns	2	44	22.0	43	1
16 Jordan Nathan	2	23	11.5	15	0
8 Gerold Bright	2	19	9.5	13	0
88 Carson Terrell	1	14	14.0	14	0
17 Taylor Compton	1	10	10.0	10	0
19 Deven Thompkins	1	8	8.0	8	0
81 Savon Scarver	0	0	-	-	0