

Barnes runs for 4 TDs as K-State routs Oklahoma State, 31-12

MANHATTAN, Kan. -- Kansas State broke huddle against Oklahoma State at one point Saturday with three running backs joining quarterback Skylar Thompson in the backfield, the quartet making a unique diamond-like formation that coach Bill Snyder said has been part of the playbook for 30 years.

True or not, the claim was fitting given the Wildcats' entire game plan looked about that old.

Almost entirely abandoning the passing game, Kansas State bludgeoned the Cowboys with an old-school, ground-based attack. Alex Barnes rumbled for 181 yards and four touchdowns, the Wildcats piled up 291 yards rushing and they dominated the time of possession in a 31-12 rout.

"Our running game, we've addressed this week-in and week-out, it's gotten better, gotten better, gotten better," Snyder said. "Alex got a lot of yards but you get a lot of yards because someone up front is knocking someone else back. It's a team-oriented deal."

Thompson only had 130 yards passing, enough to keep the Cowboys honest, but added 80 yards to the rushing total in helping the Wildcats (3-4, 1/3 Big 12) end a three-game skid.

They've now beaten the Cowboys (4-3, 1-3) in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 2002.

"We have to look and see what we're doing, where we are at and what we can do to correct it," Cowboys coach Mike Gundy said. "We are trying to do what we can as soon as possible to fix the problems."

Oklahoma State led 6-3 at halftime before the Wildcats got their ground game going. They leaned heavily on Barnes, who ran for a career-best 250 yards last week against Baylor, and that allowed them to chew up the clock while keeping the Cowboys' offense off the field.

Kansas State took the lead when Barnes capped a nine-play drive with a touchdown midway through the third quarter. He added his second scoring run a few minutes later, then answered a TD run by the Cowboys' Taylor Cornelius with his third touchdown dart with 9:41 remaining in the game.

Cornelius finished 17 of 35 for 184 yards and two interceptions, while Cowboys running back Justice Hill spent most of afternoon bottled up. He carried 11 times for just 41 yards.

"We were tired of losing," Kansas State linebacker Justin Hughes said, "so we came out with the mentality that we weren't going to lose. Once we stopped Hill and made them throw we had them."

The first half resembled an old-school, Big Ten-style slugfest -- hardly the pass-happy Big 12.

The Wildcats dared the Cowboys to beat them through the air, and Cornelius had 45 of his 97 yards passing in the first half on the only completion that made them pay. But despite that long play getting the Cowboys in scoring position, Kansas State's defense managed to hold for a field goal.

The Wildcats squandered a chance to score just before halftime, when Thompson was sacked on third down in the closing seconds. Without a time out, the clock expired without a field-goal attempt, and Snyder stalked his team all the way into the locker room.

Kansas State's offensive line atoned for that mistake in the second half.

Asserting its will at the line of scrimmage, the group pried open holes for Barnes and backup Dalvin Warmack, who patiently danced into the Cowboys' secondary. They kept riding that success late into the fourth quarter, when Barnes scored his final touchdown with a couple minutes to go.

"That's what we've been expecting all season," Wildcats offensive lineman Dalton Risner said. "I feel like we've been bringing it all season but we've turned it up the last few weeks."

THE TAKEAWAY

Oklahoma State: An offense that averaged 523.3 yards per game coming into the day was rendered ineffective in the second half. Hill's streak of 12 consecutive games with a touchdown rushing came to an end, as did the Cowboys' impressive streak of 19 straight wins when leading at halftime.

Kansas State: The season-long search for an identity may have uncovered a smash-mouth approach that can produce results. The Wildcats were held to six points a few weeks ago at West Virginia, and two TDs in a loss to Texas. But their run-based attack has been on-point against Baylor and Oklahoma State.

STATS AND STREAKS

Oklahoma States' streak of forcing a turnover in 33 straight games was snapped. ... Barnes moved into the top 10 in Kansas State history with 2,049 yards rushing. He's the first player with back-to-back games of at least 175 yards rushing since Darren Sproles in 2003. ... Wildcats cornerback Duke Shelley had both of the interceptions. He has at least one in all three games he's played against Oklahoma State.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
OKST	3	3	0	6	12
KSU	0	3	14	14	31

Scoring Summary -----

	OKST	KSU
FIRST QUARTER		
OKST FG 5:10 Matt Ammendola 48 Yd Field Goal	3	0
10 plays, 36 yards, 4:31		
second Quarter	OKST	KSU
KSU FG 13:32 Andrew Hicks 31 Yd Field Goal	3	3
9 plays, 70 yards, 6:32		
OKST FG 7:23 Matt Ammendola 22 Yd Field Goal	6	3
6 plays, 52 yards, 2:32		
third Quarter	OKST	KSU
KSU TD 8:44 Alex Barnes 9 Yd Run (Andrew Hicks Kick)	6	10
9 plays, 70 yards, 4:59		
KSU TD 2:41 Alex Barnes 1 Yd Run (Andrew Hicks Kick)	6	17
7 plays, 62 yards, 3:34		
fourth Quarter	OKST	KSU
OKST TD 14:23 Taylor Cornelius 1 Yd Run (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed) 10 plays, 75 yards, 3:18	12	17
KSU TD 9:41 Alex Barnes 8 Yd Run (Andrew Hicks Kick)	12	24
9 plays, 75 yards, 4:42		
KSU TD 2:35 Alex Barnes 3 Yd Run (Andrew Hicks Kick)	12	31
11 plays, 75 yards, 5:32		

Team Stats	OKST	KSU
First Downs	15	23
Total Yards	311	421
Total Plays	63	77
Avg Gain Per Play	4.9	5.5
Net Yards Rushing	127	291
Rushes	28	55
Yards Per Rush	4.5	5.3
Net Yards Passing	184	130
Comp-Att	17-35	11-22
Yards Per Pass	5.3	5.9
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-17	-19
Interceptions	2	0
Punts	5	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	7	4
Penalty Yards	70	40
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	22:08	37:52

Individual Stats

RUSHING

OKST	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
14 Taylor Cornelius	11	55	5.0	26	1
5 Justice Hill	11	41	3.7	7	0
27 J.D. King	5	25	5.0	12	0
30 Chuba Hubbard	1	6	6.0	6	0
KSU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
34 Alex Barnes	34	181	5.3	29	4
10 Skylar Thompson	12	80	6.7	19	0
3 Dalvin Warmack	8	32	4.0	8	0

PASSING

OKST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Taylor Cornelius	17	35	184	5.3	0	2	81.3
KSU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Skylar Thompson	11	22	130	5.9	0	0	99.6

RECEIVING

OKST	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
2 Tylan Wallace	5	90	18.0	45	0
30 Chuba Hubbard	4	35	8.8	14	0
13 Tyron Johnson	3	28	9.3	19	0
17 Dillon Stoner	1	11	11.0	11	0
5 Justice Hill	2	10	5.0	11	0
27 J.D. King	2	10	5.0	5	0
KSU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
34 Alex Barnes	3	51	17.0	28	0
7 Isaiah Zuber	3	33	11.0	23	0
3 Dalvin Warmack	1	18	18.0	18	0
2 Isaiah Harris	3	16	5.3	11	0
89 Blaise Gammon	1	12	12.0	12	0