

WEEK SEVEN  
WEST VIRGINIA AT IOWA STATE

Iowa State throttles No. 6 West Virginia 30-14

AMES, Iowa -- It was arguably West Virginia's biggest test, on the road at night against a plucky Iowa State team with a stifling defense and a dangerous young quarterback.

The sixth-ranked Mountaineers failed miserably.

Freshman Brock Purdy threw for 254 yards and three TDs and Iowa State throttled West Virginia 30-14 on Saturday, handing the Mountaineers their first loss in emphatic fashion.

David Montgomery had a career-high 189 yards rushing for the Cyclones (3-3, 2-2 Big 12), who capped a wild day by beating a Top 25 team for the fifth time in seven tries after dropping 20 in a row to ranked teams.

Iowa State held the Mountaineers to 152 yards overall and zero points in the second half.

"They didn't come up with a magical defense to stop what we were doing," West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen said. "We didn't do anything right. We didn't make plays, we didn't keep our eyes where they needed to be. We didn't run fast, we didn't get off coverage, we didn't make good decisions. We didn't call good plays, we didn't tackle them, we didn't block."

The only solace for West Virginia (5-1, 3-1) was that it was the fourth Top 10 team to fall Saturday. LSU pounded No. 2 Georgia 36-16, No. 7 Washington fell 30-27 in overtime at No. 17 Oregon, and No. 8 Penn State lost to Michigan State 21-17.

Iowa State scored 20 straight points after spotting West Virginia an early touchdown off a turnover. Purdy, in his first career start, then found Deshaunte Jones through a pair of defenders on a sprawling 32-yard TD grab that put Iowa State ahead 28-14 with 12:17 to go.

The story of the game was Iowa State's defense, which dominated the high-flying Mountaineers. West Virginia was held 375 yards below its season average, Grier was sacked seven times and the Mountaineers were 1 for 10 on third downs.

"I thought at times that we played a lot of complete football," Iowa State coach Matt Campbell said. "We continue to grow."

Fittingly, the Cyclones sealed the win by forcing a hold in the end zone for a team safety and a 30-14 edge with 5:14 left.

Will Grier had arguably his worst game as a Mountaineer, throwing for just 100 yards on 11 off 15 passing. West Virginia was out-gained by 346 yards, a stunning figure for a team that hadn't even trailed in rolling up five straight wins.

THE TAKEAWAY

West Virginia: The Mountaineers still control their destiny in the Big 12, with games against Texas and Oklahoma left on the schedule. But their playoff hopes are currently out of their hands. Still, it's early, and if West Virginia can regain the offensive form they showed through the early part of the season it'll be tough to beat. But this was a bad, bad loss. "It's just lack of execution. I don't know if it was a lack of effort, just lack of execution," running back Kennedy McKoy said.

Iowa State: The Cyclones have held all six of their opponents below their season average, which has been instrumental the team's bounce back from a 1/3 start. Can Iowa State grab the second spot in the Big 12 title game? Probably not -- but the schedule will ease up considerably and these Cyclones seem capable of going on a run.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE. MUCH, MUCH WORSE FOR WEST VIRGINIA.

Iowa State appeared to catch a break when, up 20-7, an interception by Josh Norwood inside the West Virginia 5 was overturned. That set up a Cyclones field goal try -- which was blocked by Kenny Bigelow, Jr. and returned 72 yards for a touchdown by Derrek Pitts Jr. Those two plays likely produced a 10-point swing in favor of the Mountaineers, since kicker Connor Assalley hadn't missed a field goal all year. Pitts was carried off in the fourth quarter, unable to put weight on his left leg.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

West Virginia's fate will rest on how many voters realize what kind of defense Iowa State has in 2018, and how well the Cyclones have played in big games over the past two years -- especially at home.

HE SAID IT

"Iowa State's obviously a different team with (Montgomery)," Holgorsen said after Montgomery missed last week's game with an upper arm injury. "(Montgomery) is a heck of a back. Different team with him in there."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WVU	7	7	0	0	14
ISU	13	7	0	10	30

Scoring Summary -----

first Quarter	WVU	ISU
WVU TD 6:47 David Sills V 18 Yd pass from Will Grier (Evan Staley Kick)4 plays, 44 yards, 1:43	7	0
ISU TD 4:24 Hakeem Butler 4 Yd pass from Brock Purdy (Connor Assalley Kick) 6 plays, 65 yards, 2:23	7	7
ISU TD 0:13 David Montgomery 2 Yd Run (Connor Assalley PAT failed) 6 plays, 53 yards, 2:04	7	13
second Quarter	WVU	ISU
ISU TD 9:21 Charlie Kolar 19 Yd pass from Brock Purdy (Connor Assalley Kick) 8 plays, 59 yards, 4:04	7	20
WVU TD 2:58 Derrek Pitts Jr. 72 Yd Return of Blocked Field Goal (Evan Staley Kick)9 plays, 51 yards, 4:02	14	20
fourth Quarter	WVU	ISU
ISU TD 12:17 Deshaunte Jones 32 Yd pass from Brock Purdy (Brock Purdy Pass to Matthew Eaton for Two-Point Conversion)	14	28
6 plays, 81 yards, 2:43	14	28
ISU SF 5:14 Team Safety 3 plays, -8 yards, 2:14	14	30

Team Stats	WVU	ISU
First Downs	9	25
Passes for First	2	11
Total Yards	152	498
Total Plays	42	72
Avg Gain Per Play	3.6	6.9
Net Yards Rushing	52	244
Rushes	27	47
Yards Per Rush	1.9	5.2
Net Yards Passing	100	254
Comp-Att	11-15	18-25
Yards Per Pass	6.7	10.2
Times Sacked	7	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-60	0
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	8	4
Punt Average	41.5	43.5
Penalties	9	10
Penalty Yards	103	95
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	22:39	37:21

Individual Stats

RUSHING

WVU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Kennedy McKoy	9	55	6.1	26	0
Martell Pettaway	8	30	3.8	16	0
Will Grier	10	-33	-3.3	15	0
ISU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
David Montgomery	29	189	6.5	37	1
Brock Purdy	11	39	3.5	15	0
Kene Nwangwu	5	26	5.2	12	0

PASSING

WVU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Will Grier	11	15	100	6.7	1	1	138.0
ISU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Brock Purdy	18	25	254	10.2	3	1	188.9

RECEIVING

WVU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
12 Gary Jennings Jr.	4	38	9.5	21	0
6 Kennedy McKoy	2	28	14.0	19	0
13 David Sills V	2	22	11.0	18	1
8 Marcus Simms	2	8	4.0	10	0
88 Trevon Wesco	1	4	4.0	4	0
ISU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
18 Hakeem Butler	6	107	17.8	38	1
14 Tarique Milton	4	36	9.0	15	0
88 Charlie Kolar	2	36	18.0	19	1
8 Deshaunte Jones	1	32	32.0	32	1
23 Matthew Eaton	2	24	12.0	23	0
3 Kene Nwangwu	1	11	11.0	11	0
82 Landen Akers	1	8	8.0	8	0
32 David Montgomery	1	0	0.0	0	0