

WEEK NINE
BAYLOR AT WEST VIRGINIA

No. 13 WVU uses 31-point second quarter to beat Baylor 58-14

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. -- No. 13 West Virginia was determined to make up for being embarrassed in its last game on the road.

Will Grier threw three touchdown passes and the Mountaineers used a big second quarter to cruise to a 58-14 victory over Baylor on Thursday night.

The Mountaineers (6-1, 4-1 Big 12) bounced back from a blowout loss at Iowa State with arguably its top performance of the season on offense and one of its best on defense.

"We finally played a complete game for four quarters," coach Dana Holgorsen said.

During a 31-point second quarter, Grier had TD tosses of 25 and 65 yards to David Sills, and Grier ran for a 1-yard score for a 41-0 halftime lead. It marked the most points in a quarter for the Mountaineers since they scored 35 against Clemson in the Orange Bowl following the 2011 season.

West Virginia had 10 first-half drives, compiled 435 yards by the break and 568 overall.

"We needed to go out and play well and we did. It's what our team needed," Holgorsen said. "It's going to give us momentum for what we know is going to be a tough November."

Grier had his best game in the span of a month after getting sacked seven times against Iowa State, throwing three red-zone interceptions against Kansas and failing to get the Mountaineers into the end zone in the second half at Texas Tech.

He was limited to 100 passing yards in the 30-14 loss to the Cyclones two weeks ago and had 302 by halftime Thursday. Grier finished 17 of 27 for 353 yards and sat out the fourth quarter.

Baylor had come up just short at No. 6 Texas two weeks ago, driving to the Longhorns 17 in the final seconds but couldn't reach the end zone and lost 23-17.

The Bears (4-4, 2-3) were never in this one. They were limited to 287 total yards.

"I didn't see it coming," Baylor coach Matt Rhule said. "I thought our defense hung in there early, as the offense had some uncharacteristic turnovers."

Charlie Brewer, who nearly brought Baylor back from a 38-13 fourth-quarter deficit against West Virginia as a freshman last year, threw three interceptions and was replaced by Jalan McClendon in the second quarter.

Rhule said Brewer "looked a little out of it" as he left the field and was being evaluated for a potential injury that Rhule didn't specify. Brewer went 1 of 8 for 22 yards.

Evan Staley kicked three field goals for West Virginia. His 44-yarder in the third quarter boosted the lead to 44-0.

THE TAKEAWAY

Baylor: The Bears lost their third straight road game to a ranked league opponent. They still have plenty of chances to get two more wins to become bowl eligible a year after going 1-11 in Rhule's first season. Baylor dropped to 0-4 against West Virginia in Morgantown.

West Virginia: The defense had 12 tackles for losses, including five sacks, and was noticeably better after what defensive coordinator Tony Gibson pointed out were 31 missed tackles in the team's only loss.

Linebacker David Long said the defense was ready to redeem itself.

"We felt like we lost a little respect as a team when we lost," he said. "I feel like we went out there just to take that back."

WR IMPROVEMENT

West Virginia's wide receivers combined for just eight catches two weeks ago in part because they couldn't separate themselves from Iowa State defenders. They made a point to get open Thursday. Sills had five catches for 139 yards and Gary Jennings had three for 100 yards. Jennings caught a 53-yard TD pass from Grier on West Virginia's first drive and a 36-yarder from Jack Allison in the fourth quarter.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The Mountaineers could have an opportunity to move up in the AP Top 25 poll after falling out of the top 10 last week.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
BAY	0	0	14	0	14
WVU	10	31	10	7	58

Scoring Summary -----

	BAY	WVU
FIRST QUARTER		
WVU TD 14:10 Gary Jennings Jr. 53 Yd pass from Will Grier (Evan Staley Kick) 3 plays, 75 yards, 0:50	0	7
WVU FG 2:53 Evan Staley 25 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 25 yards, 1:25S	0	10
second Quarter		
WVU FG 13:21 Evan Staley 47 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 41 yards, 2:11	0	13
WVU TD 8:23 David Sills V 25 Yd pass from Will Grier (Evan Staley Kick)		
6 plays, 52 yards, 3:02	0	20
WVU TD 6:40 David Sills V 65 Yd pass from Will Grier (Evan Staley Kick)		
2 plays, 67 yards, 0:33	0	27
WVU TD 6:11 Martell Pettaway 33 Yd Run (Evan Staley Kick)		
2 plays, 33 yards, 0:14	0	34
WVU TD 3:09 Will Grier 1 Yd Run (Evan Staley Kick)		
2 plays, 80 yards, 0:48	0	41
third Quarter		
WVU FG 14:20 Evan Staley 44 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, 0 yards, 0:40	0	44
BAY TD 9:52 Josh Fleeks 2 Yd Run (Connor Martin Kick)		
9 plays, 56 yards, 4:28	7	44
WVU TD 5:34 Leddie Brown 1 Yd Run (Evan Staley Kick)		
10 plays, 72 yards, 4:18	7	51
BAY TD 0:23 Jalan McClendon 1 Yd Run (Connor Martin Kick)		
10 plays, 75 yards, 5:11	14	51
fourth Quarter		
WVU TD 14:53 Gary Jennings Jr. 36 Yd pass from Jack Allison (Evan Staley Kick) 2 plays, 34 yards, 0:30	14	58

	BAY	WVU
Team Stats		
First Downs	17	22
Total Yards	287	568
Total Plays	65	64
Avg Gain Per Play	4.4	8.9
Net Yards Rushing	82	172
Rushes	36	33
Yards Per Rush	2.3	5.2
Net Yards Passing	205	396
Comp-Att	17-29	21-31
Yards Per Pass	7.1	12.8
Times Sacked	5	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-37	-15
Interceptions	3	0
Punts	8	2
Punt Average	41.1	50.0
Penalties	8	6
Penalty Yards	75	64
Fumbles	3	1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	31:50	28:10

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
BAY					
6 JaMycal Hasty	9	37	4.1	14	0
25 Trestan Ebner	3	23	7.7	23	0
19 Jalan McClendon	11	22	2.0	9	1
5 Jalen Hurd	2	20	10.0	14	0
7 John Lovett	2	-1	-0.5	4	0
21 Josh Fleeks	2	-4	-2.0	2	1
12 Charlie Brewer	7	-15	-2.1	3	0
WVU					
14 Tevin Bush	1	79	79.0	79	0
32 Martell Pettaway	4	35	8.8	33	1
20 Alec Sinkfield	7	26	3.7	8	0
6 Kennedy McKoy	7	23	3.3	9	0
4 Leddie Brown	7	16	2.3	10	1
34 Lorenzo Dorr	2	2	1.0	1	0
11 Jack Allison	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
7 Will Grier	3	-7	-2.3	7	1

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
BAY							
Jalan McClendon	16	21	183	8.7	0	0	149.4
Charlie Brewer	1	8	22	2.8	0	3	-39.4
WVU							
Will Grier	17	27	353	13.1	3	0	209.5
Jack Allison	4	4	43	10.8	1	0	272.8

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
BAY					
5 Jalen Hurd	3	38	12.7	15	0
14 Chris Platt	2	38	19.0	23	0
81 Tyquan Thornton	3	36	12.0	17	0
15 Denzel Mims	2	29	14.5	17	0
84 Marques Jones	1	22	22.0	22	0
7 John Lovett	1	18	18.0	18	0
25 Trestan Ebner	2	15	7.5	8	0
6 JaMycal Hasty	3	9	3.0	5	0
WVU					
13 David Sills V	5	139	27.8	65	2
12 Gary Jennings Jr.	3	100	33.3	53	2
88 Trevon Wesco	3	52	17.3	23	0
1 T.J. Simmons	3	29	9.7	17	0
20 Alec Sinkfield	2	29	14.5	31	0
84 Jovani Haskins	3	21	7.0	12	0
14 Tevin Bush	1	13	13.0	13	0
8 Marcus Simms	1	13	13.0	13	0