

WEEK TWELVE

AIR FORCE AT WYOMING

Wyoming scores on late drive to beat Air Force 35-27

LARAMIE, Wyo. -- Tyler Vander Waal's redemption gave Wyoming its third straight win.

Vander Waal came off the bench and tossed two touchdown passes, including the go-ahead score on a 22-yard strike with 1:09 left in the game, and rushed for two more TDs in leading Wyoming to a come-from-behind 35-27 victory over Air Force on a cold, snowy Saturday afternoon.

Vander Waal, who replaced injured starter Sean Chambers in the first quarter, led the Cowboys on a nine-play, 58-yard drive for the winning score, and Xazavian Valladay added a 27-yard scoring run with 17 seconds left to seal the win after an Air Force turnover on its subsequent series.

Vander Waal, who started the Cowboys' first seven games before being benched in favor of Chambers because of an anemic offensive performance, completed 14 of 26 passes for 225 yards. He had TD runs of 3 and 5 yards.

"I knew when Sean went down I had to step up," said Vander Waal, whose first play from scrimmage was an 11-yard TD pass to Raghbir Ismail Jr. "I think for me that really helped with confidence the rest of the game."

Tyree Mayfield caught four passes for 112 yards -- the first Wyoming player with 100 yards receiving this season.

Wyoming (5-6, 3-4 Mountain West) lost its top two offensive players in early in the game. Chambers suffered a leg injury on the seventh play of the game and watched the rest of the contest from the sidelines on crutches and his right foot in a boot. Running back Nico Evans suffered an ankle injury just three plays into the game, returned for one carry in the second quarter and didn't play again.

Chambers and Evans each rushed for 100 yards in the three previous games, leading the Cowboys to two straight wins.

Wyoming coach Craig Bohl noted his team's resilience after losing Chambers and Evans. "I think it's an indication of our guys hanging in there," Bohl said.

Kadin Remsberg and Cole Fagan each rushed for more than 100 yards and Donald Hammond III scored twice to lead Air Force (4-7, 2-5). The Falcons gashed the Cowboys defense for 362 yards on the ground and held the ball for just over 38 minutes.

Remsberg carried the ball 20 times for 128 yards, and Fagan had 116 yards on 17 carries and a 4-yard score. The last time the run-oriented Falcons had two 100-yard rushers in a game was the 2017 season finale against Utah State.

Hammond, who rushed for 92 yards, had scoring runs of 36 and 1 yards. He completed 5-of-9 passes for 53, but threw two interceptions on Air Force's last two possessions of the game.

Jake Koehnke kicked field goals of 27 and 21 yards for the Falcons, the second one putting the Falcons up 27-14 with 8:44 left in the fourth quarter.

But Air Force wouldn't score again as the Cowboys found the end zone three times in the last 4:32 of the game, starting with Vander Waal's 5-yard score.

"We didn't do enough to win the game," Falcons coach Troy Calhoun said. "And that's with us, and that's also a credit to the opponent."

THE TAKEAWAY

Air Force: The Falcons are now 1-5 in road games this season. Their only road win was a 41-35 victory at UNLV on Oct. 19.

Wyoming: The Cowboys kept their hopes of becoming bowl eligible alive although at a high price in losing their starting quarterback.

COOL BEGINNINGS

The temperature was 19 degrees with a wind chill of minus-4 degrees and light snow falling when the game kicked off in War Memorial Stadium.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
AFA	7	10	7	3	27
WYO	14	0	0	21	35

Scoring Summary -----

	AFA	WYO
FIRST QUARTER		
WYO TD 11:37 Raghbir Ismail Jr. 11 Yd pass from Tyler Vander Waal (Cooper Rothe Kick) 8 plays, 75 yards, 3:23	0	7
AFA TD 7:38 Donald Hammond III 1 Yd Run (Jake Koehnke Kick) 9 plays, 75 yards, 3:59	7	7
WYO TD 4:44 Tyler Vander Waal 3 Yd Run (Cooper Rothe Kick) 6 plays, 75 yards, 2:54	7	14
second Quarter		
AFA TD 13:41 Cole Fagan 4 Yd Run (Jake Koehnke Kick) 12 plays, 75 yards, 6:03	14	14
AFA FG 1:50 Jake Koehnke 27 Yd Field Goal 19 plays, 81 yards, 10:12	17	14
third Quarter		
AFA TD 10:19 Donald Hammond III 36 Yd Run (Jake Koehnke Kick) 9 plays, 76 yards, 4:41	24	14
fourth Quarter		
AFA FG 8:44 Jake Koehnke 21 Yd Field Goal 12 plays, 52 yards, 6:57	27	14
WYO TD 4:32 Tyler Vander Waal 5 Yd Run (Cooper Rothe Kick) 13 plays, 76 yards, 4:06	27	21
WYO TD 1:09 Austin Conway 22 Yd pass from Tyler Vander Waal (Cooper Rothe Kick) 9 plays, 58 yards, 1:46	27	28
WYO TD 0:45 Xazavian Valladay 27 Yd Run (Cooper Rothe Kick) 3 plays, 22 yards, 0:17	27	35

Team Stats	AFA	WYO
First Downs	25	18
Total Yards	415	373
Total Plays	74	58
Avg Gain Per Play	5.6	6.4
Net Yards Rushing	362	111
Rushes	65	29
Yards Per Rush	5.6	3.8
Net Yards Passing	53	262
Comp-Att	5-9	15-29
Yards Per Pass	5.9	9.0
Times Sacked	1	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-7	0
Interceptions	2	0
Punts	2	2
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	5
Penalty Yards	66	35
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	38:35	21:25

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
24 Kadin Remsberg	20	128	6.4	20	0
34 Cole Fagan	17	116	6.8	26	1
5 Donald Hammond III	18	90	5.0	36	2
28 Joseph Saucier	6	22	3.7	13	0
33 Taven Birdow	2	9	4.5	6	0
26 Brandon Lewis	1	1	1.0	1	0
WYO					
20 Jevon Bigelow	9	35	3.9	11	0
23 Xazavian Valladay	4	23	5.8	27	1
18 Tyler Vander Waal	8	22	2.8	15	2
22 Nico Evans	3	17	5.7	19	0
25 Austin Conway	3	17	5.7	8	0
12 Sean Chambers	1	-1	-1.0	0	0

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Donald Hammond III	5	9	53	5.9	0	2	60.6
WYO							
Tyler Vander Waal	14	26	225	8.7	2	0	151.9
Sean Chambers	1	2	37	18.5	0	0	205.4
Austin Conway	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
8 Marcus Bennett	3	31	10.3	13	0
34 Cole Fagan	1	14	14.0	14	0
28 Joseph Saucier	1	8	8.0	8	0
WYO					
85 Tyree Mayfield	4	112	28.0	60	0
80 James Price	4	54	13.5	16	0
25 Austin Conway	2	34	17.0	22	1
19 Ayden Eberhardt	2	30	15.0	15	0
17 Raghbir Ismail Jr.	2	20	10.0	11	1
23 Xazavian Valladay	1	12	12.0	12	0