

**ARIZONIA BOWL
GEORGIA ST VS WYOMING**

TUCSON, Ariz. -- Wyoming wanted to make the most of its bowl game after being passed over in the postseason last year. Giving a freshman quarterback his first career start didn't seem like the best approach to accomplishing that goal.

Levi Williams handled it just fine and the Cowboys are riding off from the 2019 season with a bowl victory.

Williams accounted for four scores, Kazavian Valladay ran for 204 yards and scored two touchdowns, and Wyoming rolled over Georgia State 38-17 in the Arizona Bowl on Saturday.

"He was composed, made a lot of big plays," Wyoming coach Craig Bohl said. "He had a couple things we wish he could have had back, but for a freshman, for any quarterback, he played with a lot of poise and composure."

The Cowboys won six games to become bowl eligible in 2018, yet found themselves at home watching TV after they weren't among the 78 teams to get bowl invites.

Once at the 2019 Arizona Bowl, the Cowboys turned to Williams over Tyler Vander Waal, who entered the transfer portal but remained with the team for bowl practices. Williams did not shy away from the spotlight, hurting the Panthers with his arm and legs.

He threw for 234 yards and three touchdowns, with 53 yards and a score on the ground for the Cowboys (8-5), who racked up 524 yards to end the season on a high note.

"He's a great leader, a freshman stepping up on the big stage like this," said Valladay, who had three catches for 91 yards and a touchdowns.

Georgia State (7-6) jumped to a 10-0 lead in the first quarter but had a hard time stopping the big-play Cowboys. The Panthers also turned the ball over twice on downs deep in Wyoming's end in the second half and had a crucial roughing the punter penalty that led to Wyoming touchdown just before halftime.

The miscues spoiled a gritty performance by Dan Ellington. Georgia State's senior quarterback accounted for 236 yards and two touchdowns despite playing with a torn right ACL.

"They ought write a book about Dan," Panthers coach Shawn Elliott said. "You talk about heart, you talk about courage, you talk about leadership, you talk about enthusiasm, you talk about putting a program on your back."

The Panthers got off to a fast start, marching quickly for Ellington's 4-yard TD run and going up 10-0 after a field goal.

The Cowboys took over from there, scoring two touchdowns in less than two minutes. Williams threw an 18-yard TD to Austin Conway and, following an interception thrown by Ellington, he found Valladay on an 8-yard score to put Wyoming up 17-7.

Early in the second quarter, Williams had an interception deep in Georgia State's end on an ill-advised back-foot throw. He made a similar throw just before halftime, but that one turned into a 51-yard touchdown when Ayden Eberhardt broke two tackles, weaved through Georgia State's secondary and broke another tackle diving into the end zone.

The touchdown came after Georgia State was called for roughing the punter on a fourth and 16.

"Here you are in a seven-point ball game, you feel like you're in striking distance and that happens," Elliott said. "That was a critical moment in the game."

Williams and Valladay connected on a 63-yard pass to open the second half and Valladay scored on a 1-yard run the next play.

Georgia State responded quickly, pulling within 31-17 when Ellington hit Cornelius McCoy on a 44-yard TD.

Wyoming kept gouging the Panthers' defense, though. Valladay broke two tackles on a 62-yard run, setting up Williams' 6-yard TD run around the right end.

THE TAKEAWAY

Ellington put in a valiant effort while playing injured, but Georgia State's defense gave up too many big-chunk plays.

Wyoming had a huge offensive day to cap a disappointing finish to the regular season with a win.

ELLINGTON'S IMPACT

Ellington tore his ACL against Louisiana Monroe on Nov. 19 but kept playing, throwing for 2,291 yards and 21 TDs. The senior limped off in the second quarter of the Arizona Bowl after being hit, but returned late in the quarter and kept getting up.

"That is one tough son of a gun," Wyoming safety Alijah Halliburton said. "I didn't know you could run on a torn ACL and keep running on it."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WYO	17	7	14	0	38
GAST	7	3	7	0	17

Scoring Summary -----

	WYO	GAST
FIRST QUARTER		
GAST TD 12:59		
Dan Ellington 4 Yd Run (Brandon Wright Kick)		
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:01	0	7
WYO FG 9:01		
Cooper Rothe 53 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 39 yards, 3:58	3	7
WYO TD 2:12		
Austin Conway 18 Yd pass from Levi Williams (Cooper Rothe Kick)		
3 plays, 23 yards, 0:47	10	7
WYO TD 0:35		
Kazavian Valladay 8 Yd pass from Levi Williams (Cooper Rothe Kick)		
3 plays, 11 yards, 1:27	17	7
SECOND QUARTER		
GAST FG 9:31		
Brandon Wright 25 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 57 yards, 6:04	17	10
WYO TD 0:32		
Ayden Eberhardt 51 Yd pass from Levi Williams (Cooper Rothe Kick)		
6 plays, 60 yards, 1:29	24	10
THIRD QUARTER		
WYO TD 8:12		
Kazavian Valladay 1 Yd Run (Cooper Rothe Kick)		
5 plays, 86 yards, 2:18	31	10
GAST TD 7:43		
Cornelius McCoy 44 Yd pass from Dan Ellington (Brandon Wright Kick)		
2 plays, 75 yards, 0:29	31	17
WYO TD 1:21		
Levi Williams 6 Yd Run (Cooper Rothe Kick)		
4 plays, 74 yards, 1:41	38	17

Team Stats	WYO	GAST
First Downs	24	16
Passes for First	9	6
Rushes for First	12	10
Penalties for First	3	0
Third Down Efficiency	11-17	3-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	1-4
Total Yards	524	355
Total Plays	73	65
Avg Gain Per Play	7.2	5.5
Net Yards Rushing	290	199
Rushes	47	38
Yards Per Rush	6.2	5.2
Stat Name		
Net Yards Passing	234	156
Comp-Att	11-26	13-27
Yards Per Pass	21.3	12.0
Times Sacked	0	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	11
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	2	5
Punt Average	38.0	37.2
Penalties	1	5
Penalty Yards	10	56
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	2	0
Possession	33:51	26:09

Individual Stats

RUSHING

WYO	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Kazavian Valladay	26	204	7.8	1	62
Levi Williams	12	53	4.4	1	20
Brett Brenton	6	30	5.0	0	6
Jeff Burroughs	2	5	2.5	0	3
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0

GAST

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Dan Ellington	14	70	5.0	1	29
Tra Barnett	15	64	4.3	0	18
Destin Coates	7	59	8.4	0	21
Devin Gentry	1	6	6.0	0	6
Aubry Payne	1	0	0.0	0	0

PASSING

WYO	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Levi Williams	11	26	234	9.0	3	1	69.4

GAST

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Dan Ellington	13	26	156	6.0	1	1	13.0
Kierston Harvey	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	1.6

RECEIVING

WYO	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Kazavian Valladay	3	91	30.3	1	63
Ayden Eberhardt	1	51	51.0	1	51
Raghib Ismail Jr.	3	50	16.7	0	22
Austin Conway	1	18	18.0	1	18
Dontae Crow	1	15	15.0	0	15
Josh Harshman	1	5	5.0	0	5
John Okwoli	1	4	4.0	0	4

GAST

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Cornelius McCoy	5	78	15.6	1	44
Roger Carter	3	43	14.3	0	31
Devin Gentry	3	32	10.7	0	23
Tra Barnett	2	3	1.5	0	3