Arkansas State builds lead, holds off Southern Illinois

JONESBORO, Ark. -- Logan Bonner passed for 320 yards and four touchdowns and Arkansas State defeated FCS-member Southern Illinois 41-28 on Saturday.

Kirk Merritt added 131 yards receiving with two touchdowns for the Red Wolves (2-2).

Bonner threw three touchdown passes in the first half when, after a 14-14 tie through the first quarter, ASU scored 17 points in the second quarter for a 31-14 halftime lead. The Salukis (2-2) closed to within 10 points in the third quarter but Bonner's 89-yard hookup with Omar Bayless gave the Red Wolves a 38-21 lead. Leading 41-28 midway through the fourth quarter, Arkansas State stopped Southern Illinois on 4th-and-goal from the ASU 5-yard line then ran the final 6:04 off the clock with an 11-play drive that reached the SIU 18 yard line.

Kare Lyles completed 19 of 31 passes for 288 yards with two touchdowns and an interception for the Salukis. His top target was Avante Cox with seven catches for 142 yards and a touchdown. Javon Williams rushed for 103 yards on 17 carries.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
SIU	14	0	14	0	28
ARKST	14	17	7	3	41

Scoring Summary ---------------

FIRST QUARTER	SIU	ARKST
ARKST TD 13:33 Ryan Graham 14 Yd Run (Blake Grupe Kick)		
4 plays, 50 yards, 1:27	0	7
SIU TD 12:07 Javon Williams Jr. 3 Yd Run (Griffin Cerra Kick)		
3 plays, 65 yards, 1:22	7	7
ARKST TD 7:47 Kirk Merritt 43 Yd pass from Logan Bonner (Blake Grupe Kick)		
2 plays, 45 yards, 0:37	7	14
SIU TD 2:26 Avante Cox 26 Yd pass from Kare Lyles (Griffin Cerra Kick)		
9 plays, 80 yards, 5:16	14	14
SECOND QUARTER	**SIU**	**ARKST**
ARKST FG 13:58 Blake Grupe 35 Yd Field Goal		
12 plays, 65 yards, 3:19	14	17
ARKST TD 11:23 Kirk Merritt 10 Yd pass from Logan Bonner (Blake Grupe Kick)		
5 plays, 30 yards, 2:13	14	24
ARKST TD 0:19 Jonathan Adams Jr. 25 Yd pass from Logan Bonner (Blake Grupe Kick)		
6 plays, 91 yards, 0:48	14	31
THIRD QUARTER	**SIU**	**ARKST**
SIU TD 11:50 Sam Bonansinga 39 Yd pass from Kare Lyles (Griffin Cerra Kick)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:10	21	31
ARKST TD 5:16 Omar Bayless 89 Yd pass from Logan Bonner (Blake Grupe Kick)		
2 plays, 93 yards, 0:41	21	38
SIU TD 1:39 Kare Lyles 15 Yd Run (Griffin Cerra Kick)		
8 plays, 85 yards, 3:31	28	38
FOURTH QUARTER	**SIU**	**ARKST**
ARKST FG 14:55 Blake Grupe 43 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 49 yards, 1:40	28	41

Team Stats

	SIU	ARKST
First Downs	27	22
Passes for First	11	12
Rushes for First	13	8
Penalties for First	3	2
Third Down Efficiency	6-13	2-9
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-4	1-1
Total Yards	526	474
Total Plays	81	60
Avg Gain Per Play	6.5	7.9
Net Yards Rushing	229	117
Rushes	46	27
Yards Per Rush	5.0	4.3
Net Yards Passing	297	357
Comp-Att	20-35	18-33
Yards Per Pass	8.5	10.8
Times Sacked	2	5
Yds Lost To Sacks	-11	-29
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	1	4
Punt Average	51.0	50.0
Penalties	4	8
Penalty Yards	46	67
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	37:33	22:27

Individual Stats

RUSHING

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Javon Williams Jr.	17	103	6.1	1	46
Romeir Elliott	11	53	4.8	0	13
D.J. Davis	11	51	4.6	0	14
Kare Lyles	6	24	4.0	1	15
Avante Cox	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
ARKANSAS ST	**Rush**	**Yds**	**Avg**	**TD**	**LONG**
Isaiah Azubuike	15	88	5.9	0	13
Ryan Graham	3	20	6.7	1	14
DJ Chatman	2	18	9.0	0	17
Logan Bonner	7	-9	-1.3	0	28

PASSING

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kare Lyles	19	31	288	9.3	2	1	--
Javon Williams Jr.	1	4	9	2.3	0	0	--
ARKANSAS ST	**Comp**	**Att**	**Yds**	**Y/A**	**TD**	**Int**	**QBRat**
Logan Bonner	17	31	320	10.3	4	0	70.4
Omar Bayless	1	2	37	18.5	0	0	92.1

RECEIVING

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Avante Cox	7	142	20.3	1	62
Landon Lenoir	5	69	13.8	0	22
Sam Bonansinga	2	45	22.5	1	39
D.J. Davis	4	23	5.8	0	9
Nigel Kilby	1	16	16.0	0	16
Javon Williams Jr.	1	2	2.0	0	2
ARKANSAS ST	**Rec**	**Yds**	**Avg**	**TD**	**LONG**
Omar Bayless	3	141	47.0	1	89
Kirk Merritt	10	131	13.1	2	43
Jonathan Adams Jr.	3	46	15.3	1	25
Logan Bonner	1	37	37.0	0	37
Brandon Bowling	1	2	2.0	0	2