Army beats Morgan State 52-21 heading into bye week

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- Artice Hobbs IV scored twice, Connor Slomka rushed for a career-high 110 yards and another score, and Army beat Morgan State 52-21 on Saturday.

Army (3-1) boosted its winning streak to 15 straight at home but had to overcome a surprising first-quarter deficit against Morgan State (0-3). The Bears, who compete in the Championship Subdivi-sion, haven't won a nonconference road game since a 28-3 win over Bowie State five years ago. They're 0-3 against Army, all at Michie Stadium. Army rushed for six touchdowns and a season-high 403 yards and overcame some sloppy play that included two lost fum-bles and six penalties. Army relies on ball control, and holding onto the ball is a must with the triple option. The Black Knights entered the game with seven turnovers -- they had only eight in 13 games last year -- and now have nine just four games into the season. They held the ball for over 34 minutes in this one.

"I didn't think that was up to our standards," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "That's as much to do with me as any individual play-er. Good enough to win the game, not good enough against everyone else we play. We've got to do better."

Morgan State, which started the season with two bad road losses -- 46-3 to Bowling Green and 63-12 to James Madison -- under new coach Tyrone Wheatley, stunned Army with two straight scores in the first quarter after the Black Knights had gained a 7-0 lead on a 9-yard run by Hobbs.

DeAndre Harris hit Manasseh Bailey with a $69\math{-}yard$ touchdown pass down the middle on a third-and-14 play to tie the game with 5:32 left in the first.

Four plays later, Army quarterback Jabari Laws was blindsided and fumbled and Malachi Washington recovered for the Bears. Jabriel Johnson scored on a 25-yard run on the next play for a 14-7 lead.

Army defensive back Elijah Riley said the Black Knights came out with "low energy."

"We've got to get it corrected," Riley said. I couldn't tell you the reason for it. We've just got to lock in."

Laws, who rushed for 137 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries in his Army debut last week in place of injured starter Kelvin Hopkins Jr. in a 31-13 road win over Texas-San Antonio, was replaced by Christian Anderson and did not return.

Army tied it on an 11-yard run by Sandon McCoy on the first play of the second quarter as Army began to take control.

"Moral victories, I don't really believe in those," Wheatley said. "It's something to build off. If you come out and just match a team's intensity and then you match their discipline, then you can play with them. They (Army) are going to match your intensity and they're going to fight. They're going to hit you over and over and over."

David Cooper's 35-yard field goal gave Army the lead for good and Anderson hit Hobbs in stride for an 80-yard touchdown pass midway through the quarter. The first TD pass of Anderson's career com-pleted a 17-point surge, gave Army a 10-point lead, and Morgan State couldn't recover.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a 1986 graduate of West Point, participated in a ceremony on campus Saturday morning and had the honors of performing the coin toss before the game.

THE TAKEAWAY

Morgan State: Despite a slew of penalties -- six false starts alone in the first half alone -- the Bears held their own in the opening half, a positive sign going forward. They were picked to finish eighth in the Mideastern Athletic Conference.

Army: The Black Knights can't continue giving the ball away at such an alarming rate if they want to maintain the level of ex-cellence they've established in the past two seasons, winning 21 games. With a bye week ahead, Hopkins should be ready to return after missing two games.

GAMBLING MAN

GAMBLING MAN Wheatley decided it was time to gamble after Army had scored 17 straight points to take a 24-14 lead. Facing a fourth-and-5 near midfield, Harris's pass fell incomplete. It didn't cost the Bears -- their defense forced a three-and-out. Wheatley gambled again late in the third and Harris hit Wesley Wolfolk with a 7-yard pass on a fourth-and-3. Two plays later, Harris hit Bailey for a 23-yard score.

NUMBERS

Morgan State had four turnovers -- one lost fumble and three in-terceptions by Harris, who was 15 of 29 for 230 yards to eight different receivers, led by Bailey's 121 and two scores.

"The receivers are bright spots right now," Wheatley said. "They're running great routes. I'm really proud of what they're doing right now. We've just got to get our running backs and offensive line on the same page."

HELMET TO HELMET

Morgan State running back Demerius Goodwin was injured on a hel-met-to-helmet hit in the third quarter. He raised his right arm and appeared to be talking before he was placed on a stretcher and taken away in an ambulance. Wheatley said Goodwin was being evaluated at the campus hospital.

Final	1	2	3		4	т		
MORG ARMY	14 7	0 17	7 7		0 21	21 52		
Cooxing Cummons								
Scoring Summary FIRST QUARTER MORG ARMY								
ARMY TD 6:50 Artice Hobbs IV 9 Yd Run (David Cooper Kick) 9 plays, 77 yards, 4:58 0 7								
4ORG TD 5:32 Manasseh Bailey 69 Yd pass from DeAndre Harris (Nicholas D'Shea Kick)								
3 plays, 65 yards, 1:18 7 7								
MORG TD 3:29 Jabriel Johnson 25 Yd Run (Nicholas O'Shea Kick) 1 play, 25 yards, 0:08 14 7								
SECOND QUARTER ARMY TD 14:54 Sand	on McCov	, 11 Yd	Run (D	avid	MO Cooper		ARMY	
9 plays, 75 yards,			14		14			
ARMY FG 10:17 David Cooper 35 Yd Field Goal 8 plays, 13 yards, 3:37 14 17 ARMY TD 7:26 Artice Hobbs IV 80 Yd pass from Christian Anderson (
vid Cooper Kick)								(Da-
1 play, 80 yards, 0:13 14 24 THIRD QUARTER MORG ARMY								
ARMY TD 10:34 Conn	ARMY TD 10:34 Connor Slomka 3 Yd Run (David Cooper Kick)							
	10 plays, 65 yards, 4:17 14 31 MORG TD 3:47 Manasseh Bailey 23 Yd pass from DeAndre Harris (Nichol							
O'Shea Kick) 15 plays, 75 yards, 6:47 21							31	
FOURTH QUARTER MORG ARMY								
ARMY TD 14:56 Cade Barnard 3 Yd Run (David Cooper Kick) 8 plays, 71 yards, 3:41 21 38								
ARMY TD 10:11Rashaad Bolton 1 Yd Run (David Cooper Kick)2 plays, 5 yards, 0:292145								
ARMY TD 1:48 Anthony Adkins 1 Yd Run (Andrew Bagley Kick) 14 plays, 61 yards, 7:37 21 52								
Team Stats First Downs			MORG 12		ARM 30	I X		
Passes for First			8		1			
Rushes for First Penalties for Fi			3 1		27 2			
Third Down Efficiency			6-16			4-11		
Fourth Down Efficiency Fotal Yards			2-4 308			3-3 483		
Total Plays			60 5 1		76	76 6.4		
	Avg Gain Per Play Net Yards Rushing			5.1 78		103		
Rushes Zards Per Rush			31 69 2.5 5.8			2		
let Yards Passing			230 80		80			
comp-Att ards Per Pass					1-7 11.	-7 1.4		
imes Sacked			2		0	0		
Ids Lost To Sacks Interceptions			-8 3		0 0			
Punts			5		1	1		
Punt Average Penalties			0.0		0.0)		
enalty Yards			72		50	50		
Tumbles Tumbles Lost			2 1		3 2			
Time of Poss			25 : 20		34:	40		
Individual Stats								
RUSHING MORGAN ST	Rush	Yds	Avg		TD	LON	c	
Jabriel Johnson					1	25		
Andrew Howell DeAndre Harris	11 12 8	10	4.3 1.8 1.3 Avg 6.1 8.3		0 0	10 9		
ARMY Connor Slomka	Rush 18	Yds 110	Avg 6.1		TD 1	LON 18	G	
Connor Slomka Christian Anderson Cade Barnard	9	75 62	8.3 7.8 7.6 3.5 9.5 3.4 4.7 9.0 2.5 0.6		1 0 1	12 24		
Sandon McCoy	8	61	8.3 7.8 7.6 3.5		1	15		
Anthony Adkins Malik Hancock	8	28 19	3.5 9.5		1 0	8 14		
Kell Walker Kaelin Bvrd	5 3	17 14	3.4 4.7		0 0	10 10		
Artice Hobbs IV Rashaad Bolton	1	9	9.0		1 1	9 4		
Christian Anderson Cade Barnard Sandon McCoy Anthony Adkins Malik Hancock Kell Walker Kaelin Byrd Artice Hobbs IV Rashaad Bolton Jabari Laws Dassiwa	5	3	0.6		0	4 6		
			Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat	
DeAndre Harris ARMY	Comp 15 Comp 1	28 Att 7	230 ¥ds	7.9 Y/A 11.4	2 TD	3 Int	 OBRat	
					1	0	71 . 9	
RECEIVING MORGAN ST		Yds	Avg 20.2 33.0 16.0 9.0 10.0 7.0 5.0		TD	LONG		
Manasseh Bailey Jabriel Johnson Wesley Wolfolk Andrew Howell Deontaye White Daniel Velez Idahota Akojie D Goodwin	6 1	121 33	20.2 33.0		2 0	69 33		
Wesley Wolfolk	2	32 18	16.0		0	25 11		
Deontaye White	1	10	10.0		0	10		
Daniel Velez Idahota Akojie	1 1	7 5	10.0 7.0 5.0 4.0		0 0	7 5		
D Goodwin ARMY	1 Rec	4 Yds	4.0 Ava		0 TD	4 LONG		
Artice Hobbs IV	Rec 1	Yds 80	80.0		1	80		