

WEEK FIVE
TEXAS A&M vs ARKANSAS

Mond-Davis twice for No. 23 Texas A&M to beat Arkansas 31-27

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Quartney Davis caught two of the three touchdowns thrown by Kellen Mond, including the go-ahead score for No. 23 Texas A&M, and the Aggies held on to beat Arkansas 31-27 on Saturday.

After Mond was picked off in the end zone, the Razorbacks failed to get a first down and punted after Ben Hicks was sacked at the 2. That set up the short drive for Mond’s 3-yard TD to Davis with 12:21 left to put Texas A&M (3-2, 1-1 SEC) ahead 28-24.

The teams then traded field goals, and Seth Small’s 50-yarder with 3:52 left was big for a Texas A&M that was favored by more than three touchdowns. Arkansas was at the Aggies 19 in the final minute before a fourth-down incompleton.

“I wouldn’t say it’s embarrassing. I’ve been playing this game for the past three years and it seems like every year it comes down to the wire,” Davis said. “It’s a pretty interesting game.”

The Razorbacks (2-3, 0-2) lost their 13th consecutive SEC game, including all 10 under second-year coach Chad Morris. They have lost eight in a row against Texas A&M since the Aggies left the Big 12.

“It hurts that it was that close and we couldn’t do it, but I think it opened some eyes,” Arkansas cornerback Kamren Curl said.

Davis’ 22-yard catch-and-run with 8 seconds before halftime put A&M up 21-17. He spun away from a linebacker after making a short catch, then swept across to the other side of the field to score.

Mond finished 23-of-35 passing for 251 yards. Hicks was 15 of 27 for 188 yards and a score after taking over in the second quarter for injured starter Nick Starkel, the grad transfer who played for Texas A&M the past two seasons.

Starkel had a significant bruise on his left (non-throwing) arm after throwing an interception at the goal line, and then tackling 304-pound defensive tackle Justin Madubuike.

“I just looked up to see where the ball was and it just appeared right to my left peripheral,” Madubuike said. “I turned and it was right there, and grabbed it and tried to run, and he tried to tackle me.”

De’Jon Harris scooped up a fumble and returned it 6 yards for a touchdown on the next play to get the Razorbacks within 14-10. They went ahead when Hicks made a nice back-shoulder throw to Mike Woods in the front corner of the end zone for a 13-yard TD.

THE TAKEAWAY

Texas A&M: After losses to No. 1 Clemson and No. 7 Auburn, the Aggies again found themselves in a tight game against Arkansas. Texas A&M had a chance to take control early after Madubuike’s interception, but the scoop-and-score by Arkansas on the next play quickly changed the tone of things again.

“You always feel good because you find ways to persevere and have success, but you’re not satisfied, you’re not content,” coach Jimbo Fisher said. “You know there’s a lot of issues that we have to get fixed to go on down the road to play good football.”

Arkansas: Hicks, who lost the starting job to Starkel after two games, helped lead the Razorbacks to the A&M 19 in the final minute. He had already converted one fourth down on the drive and had an impressive 17-yard scramble before another fourth-down pass fell incomplete. Coach Chad Morris said afterward, “Nick’s our starter.”

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Texas A&M was the only two-loss team in the latest AP Top 25. The Aggies likely did enough to hang in the poll.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
TA&M	7	14	0	10	31
ARK	0	17	7	3	27

Scoring Summary -----

	TA&M	ARK
FIRST QUARTER		
TA&M TD 2:56 Ainius Smith 9 Yd pass from Kellen Mond (Seth Small Kick)		
7 plays, 63 yards, 3:51	7	0
SECOND QUARTER		
ARK FG 14:15 Connor Limpert 46 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 47 yards, 3:41	7	3
TA&M TD 9:48 Isaiah Spiller 4 Yd Run (Seth Small Kick)		
10 plays, 77 yards, 4:27	14	3
ARK TD 5:30 De’Jon Harris 6 Yd Fumble Return (Connor Limpert Kick)		
1 play, -12 yards, 0:06	14	10
ARK TD 1:55 Mike Woods 13 Yd pass from Ben Hicks (Connor Limpert Kick)		
3 plays, 41 yards, 1:21	14	17
TA&M TD 0:08 Quartney Davis 22 Yd pass from Kellen Mond (Seth Small Kick)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 1:47	21	17
THIRD QUARTER		
ARK TD 10:34 Devwah Whaley 11 Yd Run (Connor Limpert Kick)		
8 plays, 84 yards, 2:37	21	24
FOURTH QUARTER		
TA&M TD 12:21 Quartney Davis 3 Yd pass from Kellen Mond (Seth Small Kick)		
7 plays, 34 yards, 4:30	28	24
ARK FG 8:46 Connor Limpert 40 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 53 yards, 3:35	28	27
TA&M FG 3:52 Seth Small 50 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 43 yards, 4:54	31	27

Team Stats	TA&M	ARK
First Downs	24	26
Passes for First	14	18
Rushes for First	8	5
Penalties for First	2	3
Third Down Efficiency	5-10	5-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	1-2
Total Yards	340	395
Total Plays	68	70
Avg Gain Per Play	5.0	5.6
Net Yards Rushing	89	98
Rushes	33	26
Yards Per Rush	2.7	3.8
Net Yards Passing	251	297
Comp-Att	23-35	27-44
Yards Per Pass	7.2	6.8
Times Sacked	4	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-26	-17
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	4	3
Punt Average	49.5	38.7
Penalties	6	8
Penalty Yards	55	48
Fumbles	3	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	32:37	27:23

Individual Stats

RUSHING						
TEXAS A&M	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Jacob Kibodi	9	38	4.2	0	14	
Kellen Mond	14	33	2.4	0	18	
Quartney Davis	2	19	9.5	0	18	
Isaiah Spiller	7	0	0.0	1	5	
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	
ARKANSAS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Rakeem Boyd	18	89	4.9	0	24	
Devwah Whaley	3	12	4.0	1	11	
Ben Hicks	3	0	0.0	0	17	
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	
Nick Starkel	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	
PASSING						
TEXAS A&M	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int
Kellen Mond	23	35	251	7.2	3	1
ARKANSAS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int
Ben Hicks	15	27	188	7.0	1	0
Nick Starkel	12	17	109	6.4	0	1
RECEIVING						
TEXAS A&M	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Jhamon Ausbon	7	82	11.7	0	17	
Ainius Smith	5	80	16.0	1	30	
Quartney Davis	7	62	8.9	2	22	
Isaiah Spiller	2	17	8.5	0	12	
Jacob Kibodi	1	9	9.0	0	9	
Camron Buckley	1	1	1.0	0	1	
ARKANSAS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Cheyenne O’Grady	8	91	11.4	0	27	
Mike Woods	4	62	15.5	1	22	
Treyton Burks	4	58	14.5	0	31	
Tyson Morris	2	26	13.0	0	16	
Devwah Whaley	3	21	7.0	0	16	
Koilan Jackson	1	19	19.0	0	19	
Rakeem Boyd	2	10	5.0	0	7	
T.J. Hammonds	2	8	4.0	0	7	
T.Q. Jackson	1	2	2.0	0	2	