

WEEK SEVEN
WASHINGTON ST at ARIZONA ST

No. 18 Arizona State rallies to beat Washington State 38-34

TEMPE, Ariz. -- Arizona State's defense limited the damage of a late shanked punt, holding Washington State to a field goal and a three-point lead.

That set the stage for Jayden Daniels.

The unflappable freshman quarterback has thrived in late moments like these through his first season and added another highlight to his resume, capping a calm-and-collected drive by spinning off a defender into the end zone for the winning touchdown.

Daniels scored on a 17-yard scramble with 34 seconds left and threw three touchdown passes to ailing Brandon Aiyuk, leading No. 18 Arizona State to a 38-34 comeback victory on Saturday. "He's just phenomenal," said Arizona State's Eno Benjamin, who had 137 yards and a touchdown rushing. "The way he goes through practice, you wouldn't think he's a freshman."

Arizona State (5-1, 2-1 Pac-12) trailed by three after Blake Mazza made a 31-yard field goal with 2 1/2 minutes left. Taking over at their own 25-yard line, the Sun Devils moved quickly down the field behind Daniels' pinpoint passing.

The freshman who led similar drives in wins against Michigan State and Cal capped it with his scramble, helicoptering off a defender into the end zone. Daniels threw for 363 yards on 26-of-36 passing. Aiyuk had seven catches for 196 yards despite an illness that kept him out for portions of the game.

"That's just the heart of these guys," Arizona State coach Herm Edwards said. "They're very resilient."

Anthony Gordon threw for 466 yards and three touchdowns, but Washington State (3-3, 0-3) was again let down by its defense.

The Cougars allowed 498 yards and folded when they needed to stiffen the most, allowing Daniels to hit 6 of 8 passes for 52 yards on the winning drive.

"I thought it was a team we let slip through our fingers too many times," Washington State coach Mike Leach said. "We need to trust each other better."

The Cougars lead the nation in passing yards per game, are fourth in total offense and eighth in scoring.

Washington State was good against Arizona State from the start.

Gordon took advantage of blown coverages by Arizona State to hit Travell Harris on a 35-yard touchdown and Dezmon Patmon on a 2-yard score to put the Cougars up 17-7.

Where Washington State has struggled is on defense, so much that defensive coordinator Tracy Claeys abruptly resigned this week.

Washington State's defense was solid early under interim coordinator Roc Bellantoni, sacking Daniels three times in the first nine plays while holding Arizona State to 23 yards in the first quarter.

The Sun Devils came alive behind the Daniels-Aiyuk connection. The pair hooked up on a 40-yard touchdown early in the second quarter, then Aiyuk broke a tackle to turn a short completion into an 86-yard score.

Cristian Zendejas' 31-yard field goal on the final play of the first half tied the game at 17-all.

Arizona State took a 24-17 lead to open the second half when Eno Benjamin turned a fourth-and-1 into a 32-yard touchdown run.

Washington State responded with drives of 91 and 92 yards, scoring on a 2-yard pass from Gordon to Easop Winston Jr. and Max Borghi's 2-yard run.

Daniels and Aiyuk connected for a third score, a 33-yarder to tie it at 31-all.

Washington State took a late lead, but left too much time on the clock for Daniels and the Sun Devils.

"We let a couple of things slip and that's what cost us the game," Washington State defensive lineman Dallas Hobbs said.

THE TAKEAWAY

Another huge offensive game (532 total yards) by Washington State, another defensive letdown leaves the Cougars winless in Pac-12 play.

The calm, cool play of Daniels has the Sun Devils rising, likely up a few spots in next week's AP Top 25.

BENJAMIN BUSTING

Benjamin seems to be getting better as the season progresses.

Coming off a three-touchdown game against Colorado, the junior running back averaged 7.2 yards per carry and showed off the burst that helped him finish fifth in the FBS in rushing yards last season. Benjamin has 529 yards and seven touchdowns this season.

SELF-ICING THE KICKER

Mazza got a second try on his late go-ahead kick -- thanks to icing by his own coach.

Not liking what he saw, Leach called timeout just before Mazza let his first try fly. He missed the kick but made the second, so the unconventional strategy paid off.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WSU	10	7	14	3	34
ASU	0	17	7	14	38

Scoring Summary -----

	WSU	ASU
FIRST QUARTER		
WSU TD 12:36 Travell Harris 35 Yd pass from Anthony Gordon (Blake Mazza Kick)		
5 plays, 66 yards, 2:24	7	0
WSU FG 5:19 Blake Mazza 33 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 69 yards, 4:42	10	0
SECOND QUARTER		
ASU TD 11:50 Brandon Aiyuk 40 Yd pass from Jayden Daniels (Christian Zendejas Kick)		
8 plays, 73 yards, 4:19	10	7
WSU TD 8:15 Dezmon Patmon 2 Yd pass from Anthony Gordon (Blake Mazza Kick)		
7 plays, 87 yards, 3:30	17	7
ASU TD 1:55 Brandon Aiyuk 86 Yd pass from Jayden Daniels (Christian Zendejas Kick)		
2 plays, 87 yards, 0:49	17	14
ASU FG 0:00 Christian Zendejas 31 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 62 yards, 1:29	17	17
THIRD QUARTER		
ASU TD 10:38 Eno Benjamin 32 Yd Run (Christian Zendejas Kick)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 4:22	17	24
WSU TD 5:35 Easop Winston Jr. 2 Yd pass from Anthony Gordon (Blake Mazza Kick)		
14 plays, 91 yards, 4:58	24	24
WSU TD 0:10 Max Borghi 2 Yd Run (Blake Mazza Kick)		
9 plays, 92 yards, 3:42	31	24
FOURTH QUARTER		
ASU TD 11:19 Brandon Aiyuk 33 Yd pass from Jayden Daniels (Christian Zendejas Kick)		
9 plays, 84 yards, 3:43	31	31
WSU FG 2:30 Blake Mazza 31 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 22 yards, 2:57	34	31
ASU TD 0:34 Jayden Daniels 17 Yd Run (Christian Zendejas Kick)		
10 plays, 75 yards, 1:56	34	38

Team Stats	WSU	ASU
First Downs	29	25
Passes for First	23	16
Rushes for First	3	9
Penalties for First	3	0
Third Down Efficiency	5-13	4-11
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-2	2-2
Total Yards	498	532
Total Plays	76	68
Avg Gain Per Play	6.6	7.8
Net Yards Rushing	32	169
Rushes	10	32
Yards Per Rush	3.2	5.3
Net Yards Passing	466	363
Comp-Att	44-66	26-36
Yards Per Pass	7.1	10.1
Times Sacked	0	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-18
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	4	5
Punt Average	55.3	38.8
Penalties	7	5
Penalty Yards	58	53
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	30:59	29:01

Individual Stats

RUSHING

WASHINGTON ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Max Borghi	9	31	3.4	1	22
Anthony Gordon	1	1	1.0	0	1
ARIZONA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Eno Benjamin	19	137	7.2	1	32
Jayden Daniels	10	23	2.3	1	17
A.J. Carter	3	9	3.0	0	8

PASSING

WASHINGTON ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Anthony Gordon	44	64	466	7.3	3	0	79.0
Team	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	--
ARIZONA ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jayden Daniels	26	36	363	10.1	3	0	84.7

RECEIVING

WASHINGTON ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Easop Winston Jr.	14	118	8.4	1	16
Dezmon Patmon	6	97	16.2	1	29
Travell Harris	4	79	19.8	1	35
Renard Bell	7	54	7.7	0	14
Calvin Jackson Jr.	5	35	7.0	0	14
Max Borghi	5	32	6.4	0	13
Rodrick Fisher	1	29	29.0	0	29
Tyrese Ross	1	17	17.0	0	17
Kassidy Woods	1	5	5.0	0	5
ARIZONA ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Brandon Aiyuk	7	196	28.0	3	86
Kyle Williams	5	49	9.8	0	15
Eno Benjamin	6	34	5.7	0	10
Frank Darby	3	29	9.7	0	12
Ricky Pearsall	1	25	25.0	0	25
Curtis Hodges	1	15	15.0	0	15
Geordon Porter	2	11	5.5	0	7
Jordan Kerley	1	4	4.0	0	5