

WEEK ONE
AKRON at ILLINOIS

Illinois crushes Akron 42-3 in home opener

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. -- Illinois rolled over Akron 42-3 on Saturday while showcasing a new quarterback and a reinvigorated defense in a season opener.

Illini quarterback Brandon Peters, a graduate transfer from Michigan, went 14 of 23 for 163 yards and three touchdowns through the air, while running for another touchdown. Peters rushed six times for 36 yards.

Akron quarterback Kato Nelson was 10 of 24 with an interception for a Zips offense that struggled from the opening play.

Reggie Corbin and RaVon Bonner also rushed for touchdowns for the Illini.

Akron was led by Deltron Sands, who rushed 13 times for 39 yards. Brandon Lee carried nine times for 30 yards.

The Illini put up an impressive 401 yards of total offense, including 207 on the ground and 194 passing, while holding Akron to a total of 192 yards.

The Zips managed only 64 yards rushing against a stifling Illinois defense led by linebacker Jake Hansen, who had seven tackles and an interception.

THE TAKEAWAY

Akron: The Zips were outclassed and outgunned, putting up a dismal 128 yards passing into a swarming Illinois secondary.

Illinois: With head coach Lovie Smith taking over defensive coordinator duties after Hardy Nickerson left last October, all eyes were on the Illinois defense. It didn't disappoint.

The Illinois running game, always a strength behind Corbin and Mike Epstein, got a significant boost from an unlikely source. Peters, at 6-foot-5 and 220 pounds, showed surprising mobility and a tendency to choose his run opportunities well.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
AKRON	3	0	0	0	3
ILL	14	14	14	0	42

Scoring Summary -----

	AKRON	ILL
FIRST QUARTER		
ILL TD 11:53 R. Corbin run for 3 yds for a TD, (J. McCourt KICK)	0	7
10 plays, 63 yards, 3:07		
AKRON FG 6:29 J. Fitschen 42 yd FG GOOD	3	7
11 plays, 50 yards, 5:24		
ILL TD 3:23 R. Bonner run for 10 yds for a TD, (J. McCourt KICK)	3	14
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:06		
SECOND QUARTER		
ILL TD 14:56 B. Peters pass,to T. Sidney for 10 yds for a TD, (J. McCourt KICK)	3	21
6 plays, 24 yards, 2:34		
ILL TD 2:04 B. Peters run for 20 yds for a TD, (J. McCourt KICK)	2	28
2 plays, 24 yards, 0:38		
THIRD QUARTER		
ILL TD 10:42 B. Peters pass,to J. Williams for 9 yds for a TD, (J. McCourt KICK)	3	35
8 plays, 63 yards, 3:23		
ILL TD 4:30 B. Peters pass,to D. Barker for 2 yds for a TD, (J. McCourt KICK)	3	42
10 plays, 70 yards, 3:34		

Team Stats	AKRON	ILL
First Downs	16	22
Passes for First	7	11
Rushes for First	7	10
Penalties for First	2	1
Third Down Efficiency	3-13	9-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	0-1
Total Yards	192	401
Total Plays	66	71
Avg Gain Per Play	2.9	5.6
Net Yards Rushing	64	207
Rushes	38	46
Yards Per Rush	1.7	4.5
Net Yards Passing	128	194
Comp-Att	12-28	15-25
Yards Per Pass	4.6	7.8
Times Sacked	2	6
Yds Lost To Sacks	-11	-37
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	7	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	7
Penalty Yards	50	75
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	31:37	28:23

Individual Stats

RUSHING

AKRON	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Deltron Sands	14	47	3.4	0	11
Brandon Lee	10	34	3.4	0	8
Michiah Burton	1	3	3.0	0	3
Robbie Kelley	1	-7	-7.0	0	0
Kato Nelson	12	-13	-1.1	0	11
ILLINOIS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Mike Epstein	8	45	5.6	0	14
Ra'Von Bonner	6	38	6.3	1	11
Reggie Corbin	6	36	6.0	1	23
Brandon Peters	6	36	6.0	1	20
Dre Brown	5	27	5.4	0	10
Kenyon Sims	8	26	3.3	0	9
Jakari Norwood	4	3	0.8	0	3
Trevon Sidney	1	2	2.0	0	2
Matt Robinson	2	-6	-3.0	0	0

PASSING

AKRON	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kato Nelson	10	24	122	5.1	0	1	
Robbie Kelley	2	4	6	1.5	0	0	
ILLINOIS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Brandon Peters	14	23	163	7.1	3	0	
Matt Robinson	1	2	31	15.5	0	0	

RECEIVING

AKRON	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Nate Stewart	5	79	15.8	0	28
Michael Mathison	3	22	7.3	0	15
Brandon Lee	1	12	12.0	0	12
Andre Williams	1	9	9.0	0	9
Jeremiah Knight	2	6	3.0	0	4
ILLINOIS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Ricky Smalling	4	54	13.5	0	22
Josh Imatorbhebhe	2	34	17.0	0	22
Kyron Cumby	1	31	31.0	0	31
Trevon Sidney	2	26	13.0	1	16
Dre Brown	2	15	7.5	0	8
Dominic Stampley	1	13	13.0	0	13
Tony Adams	1	10	10.0	0	10
Justice Williams	1	9	9.0	1	9
Daniel Barker	1	2	2.0	1	2