

WEEK ONE  
STEPHEN F AUSTIN at BAYLOR

**Brewer, Baylor go up big early, beat Stephen F. Austin 56-17**

WACO, Texas -- The Baylor Bears had sputtered just long enough to annoy coach Matt Rhule when running back Trestan Ebner took a pitch, saw most of the Stephen F. Austin defense closing in and took off the other way.

Ebner's winding 21-yard run was the first of his three touchdowns, Charlie Brewer threw for 215 yards and three scores in barely more than a half and Baylor handed the Lumberjacks their seventh straight season-opening loss with a 56-17 victory Saturday night.

"I didn't like that lull where they scored and we didn't answer it to the level that I think we should," Rhule said.

The third-year coach was referring to Stephen F. Austin getting the ball back after scoring against the Bears for the first time in a series that dates to 1928, although it was only the fifth meeting. Baylor's lead was just 14-7.

But after scoring on a 3-yard run for those first SFA points, Trae Self's pass was intercepted by Blake Lynch, who partially blocked a punt on the opening series. Ebner's highlight-reel TD came six plays after Lynch's interception.

"I saw a lot of white jerseys," said Ebner, who had 32 yards on two carries and another 40 yards receiving. "It's one of those plays where either you do it and it works or you look really stupid, so I'm really glad it worked."

Ebner's other touchdowns were also in the first half on a 16-yard pass from Brewer and an 11-yard run.

"He's obviously one of our more dynamic playmakers," Rhule said. "Getting him the ball in space made a lot of sense."

R.J. Sneed had a pair of TD catches with a team-leading 57 yards receiving. Sneed, Ebner and Denzel Mims had five catches apiece.

John Lovett ran for 108 yards on eight carries, including a 19-yard touchdown to give Baylor a 35-7 halftime lead.

The Lumberjacks, who haven't won their opener since beating Division II Southwestern Oklahoma 49-14 in 2012, got another touchdown late on Josh McGowen's 1-yard run. Self was 15 of 29 for 140 yards with an interception.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

SFA: It wasn't a horrific debut for coach Colby Carthel, who went 59-18 with a Division II national championship in six seasons at Texas A&M-Commerce. Considering the Lumberjacks are coming off a 2-8 season that was their worst since going winless in 2007, there's something to build on.

The drive to the first-ever score against Baylor covered 75 yards, starting with a 26-yard completion to Xavier Gipson, who had 61 yards receiving. "There's no doubt that SFA will be back at a high level under his leadership," Rhule said of Carthel.

Baylor: Rhule got the focus he wanted from the Bears now that the program is back in a position to be expected to win this sort of opener handily. Baylor took a quick lead, never trailed and was on its way to victory well before halftime.

There were no such expectations in his debut two years ago with the school not far removed from a wide-ranging sexual assault scandal that led to the firing of coach Art Briles. The Bears were stunned by Liberty 48-45 in the 2017 opener.

"It was one of those games where we did enough good things to be happy but enough things that I can get upset about tomorrow and correct," Rhule said.

**SHORT NIGHT**

Brewer's last play capped the first series of the second half -- a 21-yard scoring pass to Sneed right on the pylon at the goal line. It was ruled incomplete and overturned on replay with 13:40 left in the third quarter.

**LOPSIDED SERIES**

The fifth meeting between the Texas schools was just the second since 1947. The closest margin in the four shutouts was 31 points in the first meeting 91 years ago. Baylor won 88-0 a year later.

<b>Final</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>T</b>
SFA	7	0	0	10	17
BAY	14	21	14	7	56

**Scoring Summary -----**

	<b>SFA</b>	<b>BAY</b>
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
BAY TD 11:48 Trestan Ebner 16 Yd pass from Charlie Brewer (John Mayers Kick)		
6 plays, 45 yards, 1:34	0	7
BAY TD 8:13 R.J. Sneed 11 Yd pass from Charlie Brewer (John Mayers Kick)		
5 plays, 46 yards, 1:51	0	14
SFA TD 3:17 Trae Self 3 Yd Run (Storm Ruiz Kick)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 4:56	7	14
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
BAY TD 10:53 Trestan Ebner 21 Yd Run (John Mayers Kick)		
6 plays, 34 yards, 2:20	7	21
BAY TD 6:48 Trestan Ebner 11 Yd Run (John Mayers Kick)		
7 plays, 81 yards, 2:34	7	28
BAY TD 2:20 John Lovett 19 Yd Run (John Mayers Kick)		
8 plays, 45 yards, 3:11	7	35
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
BAY TD 13:40 R.J. Sneed 21 Yd pass from Charlie Brewer (John Mayers Kick)		
4 plays, 75 yards, 1:20	7	42
BAY TD 10:07 Tyquan Thornton 9 Yd pass from Gerry Bohanon (Noah Rauschenberg Kick)		
6 plays, 63 yards, 2:39	7	49
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
SFA FG 11:16 Storm Ruiz 32 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 15 yards, 3:37	10	49
BAY TD 4:26 Abram Smith 9 Yd Run (Noah Rauschenberg Kick)		
11 plays, 80 yards, 6:50	10	56
SFA TD 1:04 Josh McGowen 1 Yd Run (Storm Ruiz Kick)		
7 plays, 75 yards, 3:22	17	56

<b>Team Stats</b>	<b>SFA</b>	<b>BAY</b>
First Downs	13	30
Passes for First	6	13
Rushes for First	7	15
Penalties for First	0	2
Third Down Efficiency	6-16	8-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	1-1
Total Yards	277	518
Total Plays	62	74
Avg Gain Per Play	4.5	7.0
Net Yards Rushing	119	268
Rushes	32	37
Yards Per Rush	3.7	7.2
Net Yards Passing	158	250
Comp-Att	16-30	26-37
Yards Per Pass	5.3	6.8
Times Sacked	0	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-15
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	8	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	4	5
Penalty Yards	50	30
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	30:07	29:53

**Individual Stats**

<b>RUSHING</b>					
<b>STEPHEN F AUSTIN</b>	<b>Rush</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LONG</b>
Thomas Hutchings	10	68	6.8	0	35
Josh McGowen	7	38	5.4	1	11
Da'Leon Ward	9	10	1.1	0	5
Cam Arnold	2	7	3.5	0	11
Trae Self	4	-4	-1.0	1	4
<b>BAYLOR</b>					
	<b>Rush</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LONG</b>
John Lovett	8	108	13.5	1	38
Gerry Bohanon	6	84	14.0	0	34
Trestan Ebner	2	32	16.0	2	21
JaMyca Hasty	10	25	2.5	0	6
Abram Smith	4	8	2.0	1	9
Jacoby Clarke	2	7	3.5	0	4
Qualan Jones	3	5	1.7	0	3
Charlie Brewer	2	-1	-0.5	0	1

<b>PASSING</b>							
<b>STEPHEN F AUSTIN</b>	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Y/A</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Int</b>	<b>QBRat</b>
Trae Self	15	29	140	4.8	0	1	--
Cam Arnold	1	1	18	18.0	0	0	--
<b>BAYLOR</b>							
	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Y/A</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Int</b>	<b>QBRat</b>
Charlie Brewer	21	31	199	6.4	3	0	78.4
Gerry Bohanon	5	6	51	8.5	1	0	99.4

<b>RECEIVING</b>					
<b>STEPHEN F AUSTIN</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LONG</b>
Xavier Gipson	3	61	20.3	0	34
Lawton Rikel	1	23	23.0	0	23
Josh Thompson	1	18	18.0	0	18
Remi Simmons	3	16	5.3	0	15
Calvin Clater	2	11	5.5	0	7
Cody Williams	2	9	4.5	0	9
Da'Leon Ward	1	8	8.0	0	8
Thomas Hutchings	1	6	6.0	0	6
QuentYvian Borders	2	6	3.0	0	9
<b>BAYLOR</b>					
	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LONG</b>
R.J. Sneed	5	57	11.4	2	21
Denzel Mims	5	46	9.2	0	21
Trestan Ebner	5	40	8.0	1	16
Josh Fleeks	4	37	9.3	0	12
Chris Platt	1	23	23.0	0	23
Jared Atkinson	1	16	16.0	0	16
Tyquan Thornton	1	9	9.0	1	9
Koby Bullard	1	8	8.0	0	8
Christoph Henle	1	8	8.0	0	8
JaMyca Hasty	2	6	3.0	0	4