

WEEK FOURTEEN
ARIZONA at ARIZONA ST

Arizona State grinds out 24-14 win over rival Arizona

TEMPE, Ariz. -- Arizona State's offense sputtered throughout the first half. The few times the Sun Devils had good field position or got a little momentum, they stalled and settled for field goals.

When the second half started, they decided to stop trying to pick apart rival Arizona and just run them over with Eno Benjamin.

Benjamin ran for 168 yards and two touchdowns, helping Arizona State grind out a 24-14 victory over rival Arizona on Saturday night.

"The second half after the first drive, I went to Eno: 'it's your game, it's your time to eat,'" said Arizona State quarterback Jayden Daniels, who threw for 104 yards and ran for 62. "He's the best running back in the country to me."

On a chilly night in the desert, the Sun Devils (7-5, 4-5 Pac-12) were plagued by miscues during a slow first half, managing just six points.

Once the second half started, Arizona State imposed its will on the Wildcats up front. The Sun Devils ran the ball 20 of 21 plays on a pair of third-quarter scoring drives capped by Benjamin TD runs, turning a one-point halftime deficit to a 21-7 lead.

"We were going to take all the guess work out of it and play big-boy football," Arizona State offensive coordinator Rob Likens said.

The Wildcats (4-8, 2-7) were hurt by miscues, missed opportunities and an inability to stop Arizona State's run game to end a second straight season with a loss to their biggest rival.

Arizona's Khalil Tate returned as the starter for the first time three games and threw three interceptions -- two on miscommunications with receivers and another on a drop. Tate threw for 228 yards and threw two TDs to Jemarye Joiner, who had seven catches for 140 yards.

Arizona AD Dave Heeke said after the game coach Kevin Sumlin would return in 2020.

"Is it frustrating? Yes. I know the fans are frustrated," Sumlin said. "but we've got to trust the process and we have a process I believe in and a lot of players believe in."

Arizona State won last year's Territorial Cup game in an epic comeback, rallying from a 19-point deficit to beat Arizona 41-40. The win clinched the Sun Devils' bowl eligibility in their first season under coach Herm Edwards and denied the Wildcats a postseason bid in their first under Kevin Sumlin.

This year's game, the 93rd in the series, had no postseason implications but plenty of vitriol, starting with Arizona's players using their cleats to scuff up the Sun Devils logo at midfield.

After early struggles by both teams, Arizona finally found an offensive rhythm midway through the second quarter when Tate found Joiner on a 48-yard TD after a busted coverage by the Sun Devils.

Once the second half started, the Sun Devils started pounding the ball down the field. The Sun Devils ran 11 straight times for 75 yards on their opening drive, capped by Benjamin's 6-yard run to give Arizona State the lead.

Arizona State got its third interception in the third quarter when a pass by Tate went through the hands of running back Bam Smith. Benjamin capped another run-heavy drive with a 1-yard TD run and the 2-point conversion put the Sun Devils up 21-7, on their way to the first three-game winning streak in the series since 2005-07.

"Everybody wants to win in everything they do," Tate said after his final game at Arizona. "You get in your car, you want to make the green light. When you do lose, you can use it as a lesson or let it affect you."

THE TAKEAWAY

Arizona's defense, one of the nation's worst, was good in the first half. Once the Sun Devils started running in the second half, the Wildcats had no answer.

A bowl berth already locked up, Arizona State put a nice punctuation on the regular season with a win over its rival.

ENO HITS 1,000

Benjamin was a preseason All-American this year after finishing fifth nationally with 1,642 yards rushing. The yards were much harder to come this season, but he still managed to accomplish a rare feat his senior year.

The hard-running Benjamin finished with 1,073 yards rushing, becoming the first Arizona State player with consecutive 1,000-yard rushing seasons since Freddie Williams in 1974-75.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ARIZ	0	7	0	7	14
ASU	0	6	15	3	24

Scoring Summary -----

	ARIZ	ASU
FIRST QUARTER		
ASU FG 13:07 Christian Zendejas 33 Yd Field Goal		3
6 plays, 25 yards, 2:07	0	
ARIZ TD 7:04 Jemarye Joiner 48 Yd pass from Khalil Tate (Lucas Havrisik Kick)	7	
6 plays, 83 yards, 2:13		3
ASU FG 0:00 Christian Zendejas 24 Yd Field Goal		6
7 plays, 69 yards, 1:50	7	
THIRD QUARTER		
ASU TD 9:30 Eno Benjamin 6 Yd Run (Christian Zendejas Kick)		13
11 plays, 75 yards, 5:30	7	
ASU TD 1:20 Eno Benjamin 1 Yd Run (Jayden Daniels Run for Two-Point Conversion)		21
7 plays, 49 yards, 2:45	7	
FOURTH QUARTER		
ASU FG 7:16 Christian Zendejas 26 Yd Field Goal		24
12 plays, 72 yards, 6:29	7	
ARIZ TD 4:48 Jemarye Joiner 2 Yd pass from Khalil Tate (Lucas Havrisik Kick)	14	
9 plays, 66 yards, 2:20		24

Team Stats	ARIZ	ASU
First Downs	19	23
Passes for First	10	3
Rushes for First	8	15
Penalties for First	1	5
Third Down Efficiency	7-15	7-16
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-1
Total Yards	383	338
Total Plays	70	74
Avg Gain Per Play	5.5	4.6
Net Yards Rushing	155	234
Rushes	32	55
Yards Per Rush	4.8	4.3
Net Yards Passing	228	104
Comp-Att	22-38	12-19
Yards Per Pass	6.0	5.5
Times Sacked	1	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-2	-15
Interceptions	3	0
Punts	3	5
Punt Average	40.0	49.2
Penalties	8	4
Penalty Yards	90	45
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	25:31	34:29

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
ARIZONA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Khalil Tate	11	78	7.1	0	29		
J.J. Taylor	14	48	3.4	0	11		
Gary Brightwell	5	22	4.4	0	10		
Darrius Smith	2	7	3.5	0	6		
Dante Smith	2	7	3.5	0	6		
ARIZONA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Eno Benjamin	34	168	4.9	2	22		
Jayden Daniels	12	62	5.2	0	25		
Brandon Aiyuk	1	6	6.0	0	6		
A.J. Carter	3	4	1.3	0	5		
Kyle Williams	1	2	2.0	0	2		
Team	4	-8	-2.0	0	0		
PASSING							
ARIZONA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Khalil Tate	22	38	228	6.0	2	3	62.9
ARIZONA ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jayden Daniels	12	19	104	5.5	0	0	54.4
RECEIVING							
ARIZONA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jemarye Joiner	7	140	20.0	2	48		
Jalen Johnson	1	20	20.0	0	20		
J.J. Taylor	3	19	6.3	0	18		
Brian Casteel	6	18	3.0	0	10		
Tayvian Cunningham	2	13	6.5	0	9		
Stanley Berryhill	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Gary Brightwell	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Cedric Peterson	1	5	5.0	0	5		
ARIZONA ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Brandon Aiyuk	5	67	13.4	0	25		
Eno Benjamin	3	14	4.7	0	10		
Kyle Williams	3	13	4.3	0	6		
Tommy Hudson	1	10	10.0	0	10		