

WEEK TWO  
NORTHERN ARIZONA at ARIZONA

Arizona bounces back with 65-41 rout over Northern Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz. -- Arizona rallied from a season-opening loss by scoring quickly and building an insurmountable halftime lead. The Wildcats let down in the second half and had too many penalties to be satisfied completely with the win, particularly with the schedule about to get a whole lot harder. Gary Brightwell ran for 141 yards and a touchdown on five carries, Khalil Tate accounted for three scores and Arizona bounced back from a disappointing opening loss by routing Northern Arizona 65-41 on Saturday night.

"I'm happy about the win, but there's a lot of things that I'm not very happy about," Arizona coach Kevin Sumlin said. "I addressed that in the locker room and we're going to continue to address that."

Arizona (1-1) had an extra week off to think about its opening loss to Hawaii.

The Wildcats took it out on the Lumberjacks (1-1) early, scoring on touchdowns on their first seven drives and racking up 517 yards while setting a school record for points in a half for a 51-13 halftime lead.

Arizona finished 720 total yards, 431 rushing. Brightwell scored on a 94-yard run, Darius Smith scored twice, and J.J. Taylor ran for 102 yards and a touchdown.

Tate hit 13 of 15 passes for 142 yards and threw two touchdowns to Tayvian Cunningham before being replaced by Grant Gunnell with 7:56 left in the second quarter.

The second half was a different story. Arizona's offense stalled, the defense gave up some big plays and the penalties piled up -- not what they want with a prolific Texas Tech team coming to the desert next week.

"We aren't satisfied for sure," said Tate, who threw two passes in the third quarter before sitting for good. "We didn't play collectively as well as we should have."

Coming off an opening win against Missouri State, Northern Arizona had a few good offensive moments against Arizona, but dug too a deep of an early hole to ever have much of a chance.

Case Cookus threw for 373 yards and two touchdowns with two interceptions for the Lumberjacks.

"Every play, even when you win, you've got to take something away," Cookus said. "I made a lot of mistakes, there's guys across the board who made mistakes and they're a good football team, going to win a lot of football games."

Arizona's onslaught started from the opening drive, when Tate hit Cunningham on a 47-yard score. Next series, Taylor broke free for a 49-yard run, then scored on a 25-yard burst up the middle.

Brightwell made it 21-0 midway through the first quarter, making one defender miss and racing past the rest on a 94-yard touchdown run, tied for second-longest in school history.

Tate went in untouched on a 1-yard run, then found Cunningham for a second time, on an 8-yard TD pass before heading to the bench.

Gunnell stepped in and threw TD passes on his first two collegiate drives, hitting Drew Dixon on a 9-yarder and Thomas Reid III on a 75-yarder.

Gunnell added a 1-yard TD pass to Smith in the fourth quarter to put Arizona up 65-27 and finished 9 of 11 for 151 yards.

THE TAKEAWAY

Northern Arizona never stood much of a chance against the bigger, faster Wildcats, but the experience could help once the Big South season hits.

Arizona bounced back nicely from the Hawaii loss with a dominating performance, even if it was against an FCS opponent.

CASE'S RETURN

Cookus was limited to two games in 2018 due to a broken collarbone and could have left NAU as a graduate transfer, but opted to return as a fifth-year senior. His return was a huge boon to the Lumberjacks and he's had a solid start to the 2019 season.

Cookus made some superb throws while completing 28 of 48 passes against Arizona after throwing for 290 yards and two scores against Missouri State last week.

"He's worked his tail off to get back from his injury," NAU first-year coach Chris Ball said. "He's a great leader, he's extremely smart, has a great arm, he's tough, probably the most competitive guy I've been around."

PILES OF PENALTIES

Sumlin was not pleased with the defense in the second half, but was more concerned with the penalties. Arizona had 11 penalties for 127 yards, many on personal fouls.

"Too many selfish penalties, things we're not going to tolerate," Sumlin said. "The penalties we had today are not OK. It's not about you, it's about us and some of those penalties were about you."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
NAU	7	6	14	14	41
ARIZ	21	30	7	7	65

Scoring Summary

QUARTER	TIME	PLAYER	YDS	TYPE	NAU	ARIZ
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>						
ARIZ TD	13:29	Tayvian Cunningham	47	Pass from Khalil Tate	(Lucas Havrisik Kick)	7
5 plays	77 yards	1:31			0	7
ARIZ TD	11:00	J.J. Taylor	25	Run	(Lucas Havrisik Kick)	14
3 plays	65 yards	1:01			0	14
ARIZ TD	7:22	Gary Brightwell	94	Run	(Lucas Havrisik Kick)	21
2 plays	92 yards	0:51			0	21
NAU TD	4:45	Stacy Chukwumezie	24	Pass from Case Cookus	(Luis Aguilar Kick)	21
8 plays	75 yards	2:37			7	21
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>						
ARIZ TD	12:27	Khalil Tate	1	Run	(Lucas Havrisik Kick)	28
16 plays	80 yards	7:11			7	28
ARIZ TD	9:42	Tayvian Cunningham	8	Pass from Khalil Tate	(Lucas Havrisik Kick)	35
4 plays	31 yards	1:33			7	35
NAU FG	7:56	Luis Aguilar	34	Field Goal		35
7 plays	67 yards	1:41			10	35
ARIZ TD	4:18	Drew Dixon	9	Pass from Grant Gunnell	(Lucas Havrisik Kick)	42
10 plays	75 yards	3:38			10	42
ARIZ SF	3:28	Team Safety				44
4 plays	-25 yards	0:50			10	44
ARIZ TD	1:41	Thomas Reid III	75	Pass from Grant Gunnell	(Lucas Havrisik Kick)	51
4 plays	87 yards	1:40			10	51
NAU FG	0:00	Luis Aguilar	43	Field Goal		51
8 plays	49 yards	0:04			13	51
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>						
NAU TD	9:08	Jacob Mpungi	2	Run	(Luis Aguilar Kick)	51
13 plays	75 yards	5:52			20	51
ARIZ TD	6:05	Bam Smith	47	Run	(Lucas Havrisik Kick)	58
3 plays	91 yards	1:14			20	58
NAU TD	3:20	Nate Stinson	7	Run	(Luis Aguilar Kick)	58
7 plays	75 yards	2:45			27	58
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>						
ARIZ TD	10:30	Bam Smith	1	Pass from Grant Gunnell	(Lucas Havrisik Kick)	65
16 plays	75 yards	7:50			27	65
NAU TD	7:12	Terrell Hayward	6	Pass from Case Cookus	(Luis Aguilar Kick)	65
8 plays	75 yards	3:18			34	65
NAU TD	3:19	George Romero-Robinson	23	Run	(Luis Aguilar Kick)	65
4 plays	71 yards	1:26			41	65

Team Stats	NAU	ARIZ
First Downs	26	27
Passes for First	15	10
Rushes for First	5	17
Penalties for First	6	0
Third Down Efficiency	9-15	9-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	3-3
Total Yards	442	720
Total Plays	75	74
Avg Gain Per Play	5.9	9.7
Net Yards Rushing	69	431
Rushes	27	46
Yards Per Rush	2.6	9.4
Net Yards Passing	373	289
Comp-Att	28-48	23-28
Yards Per Pass	7.8	10.3
Times Sacked	1	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-1	-3
Interceptions	2	0
Punts	2	2
Punt Average	43.0	38.0
Penalties	4	11
Penalty Yards	15	127
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	26:21	33:39

Individual Stats

RUSHING		Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
<b>NORTHERN ARIZONA</b>						
George Romero-Robinson	4	40	10.0	1	23	
Heath Beemiller	2	18	9.0	0	11	
Jacob Mpungi	7	16	2.3	1	5	
Nate Stinson	5	10	2.0	1	7	
Aramis Aldredge	4	10	2.5	0	4	
Case Cookus	2	3	1.5	0	4	
Joe Logan	1	2	2.0	0	2	
Brandon Porter	1	-3	-3.0	0	0	
<b>ARIZONA</b>						
Gary Brightwell	5	141	28.2	1	94	
J.J. Taylor	10	102	10.2	1	40	
Darius Smith	8	84	10.5	1	47	
Nathan Tilford	6	40	6.7	0	22	
Michael Wiley	9	39	4.3	0	9	
Nazar Bombata	2	12	6.0	0	7	
Brian Casteel	1	9	9.0	0	9	
Grant Gunnell	2	6	3.0	0	9	
Khalil Tate	2	1	0.5	1	1	
Rhett Rodriguez	1	-3	-3.0	0	0	

PASSING		Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
<b>NORTHERN ARIZONA</b>								
Case Cookus	28	48	373	7.8	2	2	--	
<b>ARIZONA</b>								
Grant Gunnell	9	11	151	13.7	3	0	99.4	
Khalil Tate	14	17	138	8.1	2	0	90.9	

RECEIVING		Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
<b>NORTHERN ARIZONA</b>						
Hendrix Johnson	7	97	13.9	0	56	
Brandon Porter	8	79	9.9	0	32	
Stacy Chukwumezie	2	67	33.5	1	43	
Joey Gatewood	2	45	22.5	0	39	
Riley Langton	2	45	22.5	0	32	
Gino Campiotti	2	22	11.0	0	12	
Nate Stinson	2	16	8.0	0	8	
Terrell Hayward	1	6	6.0	1	6	
Aramis Aldredge	2	-4	-2.0	0	0	
<b>ARIZONA</b>						
Thomas Reid III	1	75	75.0	1	75	
Tayvian Cunningham	3	58	19.3	2	47	
Drew Dixon	4	46	11.5	1	17	
Brian Casteel	3	29	9.7	0	13	
Stanley Berryhill III	4	28	7.0	0	14	
Cedric Peterson	4	16	4.0	0	13	
Jamarye Joiner	1	15	15.0	0	15	
Jalen Johnson	1	14	14.0	0	14	
Darius Smith	2	8	4.0	1	7	