

Streak Ends, ASU Falls In OT

Written by Mike Kelly

Saturday, 06 November 2010 18:50

The streak is finally over. For the first time since October of 2007, the Mountaineers have lost a Southern Conference game. And the loss came against the same team that began the streak---the Georgia Southern Eagles.

And the Eagles (5-4 overall; 3-3 in the SoCon), who have been up-and-down the last few weeks, did it the hard way, spotting ASU, the unanimous No.1 team in the country for five consecutive weeks, an early 14-0, first-quarter lead before they came storming back to beat the Mountaineers 21-14 in overtime at Paulson Stadium in Statesboro, Ga. Robert Brown scored the game-winning touchdown on a four-yard run in the overtime period.

The Mountaineers, who won the toss in overtime and deferred, had one last chance, but quarterback DeAndre Presley was tripped up on fourth down and fumbled. Josh Rowe of Georgia Southern recovered, ending Appalachian's 26-game winning streak.

"It was a terrific game, and a great atmosphere for college football," said ASU coach Jerry Moore. "It was a great game between two great teams. We had our chances to win, but we didn't execute well enough. We just lost to a very good team today. But it's something we can learn from."

And despite the loss, the Mountaineers (8-1; 6-1) are still very much alive concerning their sixth consecutive SoCon title. It all comes down to their showdown next Saturday against Wofford. The Terriers (8-1; 6-0) took over sole possession of first place with a 10-3 win at Samford. Mitch Allen scored the game-winning touchdown on a 5-yard run, capping off a 98-yard scoring drive that took nearly 6 1/2 minutes. Eric Breitenstein turned in another stellar day for the Terriers as he ran for 227 yards on 28 carries.

That effort puts Breitenstein over 1,000 yards for the season.

"This game has no affect on our game next week against Wofford," said B.J. Frazier, who caught a career-best six passes for 62 yards. "We just have to regroup and focus our attention on next week's game. There isn't much we can do about this one now. It's over."

Presley had another strong effort for the Mountaineers in the losing cause. He was 14-27 for 211 yards, but he also threw two interceptions. Brian Quick caught four passes for 79 yards, and running back Devon Moore, who has practically gone unnoticed all year, ran for 36 yards on nine carries. His one-yard run with 4:29 left in the first quarter gave ASU what seemed like a commanding 14-0 lead.

"But that's just one quarter," Moore said. "There's 60 minutes in a game. Look at what happened to Georgia Tech (Thursday night). They got out to a 14-0 lead on Virginia Tech and lost the game (28-21). We started strong, but we couldn't maintain it."

The Eagles, who have gone back to their ball-hogging ways, limited Appalachian's possessions, especially in the second half. The Eagles, who scored on a Jaybo Shaw's one-yard run one-yard run with five seconds to go in the first half, cutting Appalachian's lead to 14-7 at the

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intermission.

Then the Eagles put together their longest drive of the year by marching 76 yards in 16 plays to tie the game at 14.. Darreion Robinson scored on a two-yard run. He fumbled on the play, but the officials ruled that he had crossed the goal line before losing the ball.

The Eagles held the ball for nearly 35 minutes (34:52) and limited ASU to 61 offensive plays. The Eagles had 77.

"This offense (the triple option) is difficult to defend," said linebacker D.J. Smith, who had 16 stops, including 12 solo tackles. "Everyone has a responsibility. You've got to be disciplined to attack it. I thought we played great today, but they made the big play at the end, and we couldn't answer."

ASU heads home to play Wofford next Saturday for the SoCon title. Remember what happened the last time the Terriers came to Boone. ASU was practically unstoppable as they blasted Wofford 70-24 on national TV. But the Terriers are playing with a lot of confidence these days. "It will definitely be a challenge," Moore said. "I hope we learned something from this game. Otherwise, we wasted four hours of our time. Like I told them after today's game, 'we're a championship team, and we have to bounce back from this.'"

Our coverage of ASU-Wofford begins at 1 pm Saturday on AM 1450, WATA.

NOTES: Defensive end Jabari Fletcher was named the SoCon Defensive Player of the Month for October on Friday. He had 23 tackles, eight tackles-for-loss and 4 1/2 quarterback sacks in four games. Fletcher was also named the SoCon defensive player of the week in each of the last two weeks.....The Eagles had 301 yards of total offense on Saturday against the Mountaineers.....Two of the last three ASU-GSU games at Paulson Stadium have gone to overtime (ASU defeated GSU, 27-20, in two OT in 2006).....ASU's 26-game conference winning streak ended as the second-longest in SoCon history – West Virginia's 30-straight SoCon triumphs from 1952-59 remain the standard.

SCORING:

1 2 3 4 OT T

Appalachian State 14 0 0 0 0 14

Georgia Southern 0 7 7 0 7 21

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1 QTR:

ASU- Presley 3 yd run (Jason Vitaris kick)

ASU- Moore 1 yd run (Jason Vitaris kick)

2 QTR:

GSU- Shaw 1 yd run (Adrian Mora kick)

3 QTR:

GSU- Robinson 2 yd run (Adrian Mora kick)

OVERTIME:

GSU- Brown 4 yd run (Adrian Mora kick)

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TEAM STATS:

First Downs: ASU 15, GSU 18
Third Down Efficiency: ASU 6-14 GSU 10-20
Fourth Down Efficiency : ASU 0-0,GSU 2-2
Plays-Net Yards: ASU 61-325, GSU 77-301
Rushes-Yds: ASU 34-114, GSU 56-195
Passing Yds: ASU 211, GSU 106
Kick Return Yds: ASU 53, GSU 55
Passes: ASU 14-27-2, GSU 9-21-1
Fumbles-Lost: ASU 2-1, GSU 2-1
Penalties-Yds: ASU 4-40, GSU 3-20
Time of Possession: ASU 25:08, GSU 34:52

INDIVIDUAL STATS:

RUSHING:

ASU: Presley 13-66, Moore 9-25, Cadet 10-16.
GSU: Shaw 23-86, Brown 20-61.

PASSING:

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ASU: Presley 14-27-211-2

GSU: Shaw 9-21-106-1

RECEIVING

ASU: Frazier 6-62, Quick 4-79, Hillary 2-34.

GSU: Williford 4-34, Wilcox 3-35.