



ARKANSAS STATE POSTGAME NOTES
Arkansas State at UNLV | Sept. 7, 2019 | Sam Boyd Stadium

TEAM:

- Arkansas State's team captains were seniors **Omar Bayless** (WR), **Darreon Jackson** (DB) and **Kirk Louis** (LB) and junior **William Bradley-King** (DE).
- Head coach **Blake Anderson** returned to the sidelines, ending his leave of absence and coaching in his first game of the 2019 season.
- A-State improved its all-time record against UNLV to 2-2 and now stands 3-2 in games played against a member of the Mountain West Conference.
- The Red Wolves hold a 1-1 record after two games for 12th time over the last 17 seasons, including the last three in a row.
- A-State's 43-17 win marked its largest margin of victory over a non-conference FBS opponent since defeating Memphis 47-3 in 2011.

OFFENSE:

- Junior QB **Logan Bonner** recorded his first career rushing touchdown . . . Bonner threw his fifth and sixth TD passes of the season, giving him eight for his career.
- Junior RB **Ryan Graham** scored his first touchdown in an A-State uniform, while also adding new season-high totals for rushing attempts (12) and yards (103) . . . He is the first A-State running back to record 100-plus rushing yards in a game since Warren Wand ran for 140 against Nevada in the Arizona Bowl.
- Senior WR **Kirk Merritt** posted his first receiving TD of the season, giving him eight for his two-year career at A-State.
- A-State went over 300 yards total offense for the 106th time over the last 117 games, including the last 27 in a row.
- The Red Wolves have now scored at least 30 points in each of their first two games this year and in 63 of their last 96 regular-season games.
- Senior WR **Omar Bayless** posted his fifth receiving TD of the season, giving him 14 for his career, tied for the third-most in program history . . . He finished with six catches for a career high 149 yards . . . Dating back to last season, Bayless has recorded over 100 yards in each of the last three games.

DEFENSE:

- Senior CB **Jeremy Smith** not only posted his first career interception, he returned it 35 yards for a touchdown. It was the first INT return for a TD by A-State since former DB Justin Clifton had 43-yard return against ULM on Nov. 17 of last season.
- Junior DL **Forrest Merrill** finished the night with a season-high 2.0 sacks, giving him 6.5 for his career.
- Senior DL **Kevin Thurmon** finished with a career-high 1.5 sacks, while also posting seven tackles that were just two shy of his career best.

- The A-State defense registered at least 5.0 tackles for loss for the 41st time in the last 44 games.

SPECIAL TEAMS

- Sophomore K **Blake Grupe** connected on his first three field goals of the season, including a long of 38 yards, to give him 17 made field goals for his career.