



## ARKANSAS STATE POSTGAME NOTES

Arkansas State vs Stony Brook | September 16, 2023 | Centennial Bank Stadium

### TEAM:

- Senior LB **Melique Straker**, junior OL **Jacob Bayer**, junior safety **Justin Parks**, soph. OL **Makilan Thomas** were A-State team captains and represented the Red Wolves at midfield for the coin toss.
- RS freshman QB **Jaxon Dailey** and junior DL **Nate Martey** made their first career start at A-State, while junior WR **Reagan Ealy**, senior DE **Thurman Geathers** and junior safety **Justin Parks** made their first start of the season. The Red Wolves have now used 31 different starters (16 offense/15 defense) this year.
- Six players saw their first action of the season - QB **Jaylen Raynor**, S **Brandon Greil**, K **Clune Van Andel**, DL **Ian Jeffries**, OL **Walker Davis** and OL **Tobias Braun**. With those six additional players appearing, A-State has seen 74 players appear in a game this season 34 upperclassmen (13 seniors, 21 juniors) and 40 underclassmen (20 sophomores, 20 freshmen).

### OFFENSE:

- Arkansas State's 345 rushing yards were its most since posting 469 vs New Mexico State in the 2014 season.
- Sophomore RB **Ja'Quez Cross** rushed for a career-high 166 yards, becoming the first A-State player to post at least 150 in a game since Marcel Murray ran for 175 against ULM on Nov. 2, 2019 ... Cross also recorded his first two career rushing touchdowns.
- Making his collegiate debut, freshman **Jaylen Raynor's** 57 rushing yards were the most by an A-State QB since Justice Hansen posted 76 against Georgia State on Oct. 18, 2018. Raynor also completed 4-of-6 passes for 78 yards and a TD, while leading A-State on a pair of TD-scoring drives.
- Junior WR **Courtney Jackson** hauled in his first touchdown reception with A-State and fifth of his career including his time at Syracuse.
- Junior RB **Zak Wallace** rushed for his first touchdown with the Red Wolves and 33rd career including his time at UT Martin. Among active players in FBS football, his 33 rushing touchdowns are the fourth-most.

### DEFENSE:

- Senior LB **Melique Straker** led A-State in tackles for the third-consecutive game with nine total tackles.
- Senior CB **Justin Hodges** registered his first tackle for loss of the season, equaling his career-best including his time at UCF.
- Redshirt-freshmen LB **Javante Mackey** had five tackles, including his first career tackle for loss.
- Redshirt-sophomore DE **Denard Flowers** and redshirt-junior DE **Blayne Toll** were each credited with their first career sack.

**SPECIAL TEAMS:**

- Sophomore K **Dominic Zvada** connected on a 22-yard field goal making him 2-for-4 this season and 19-of-22 for his career. He was 3-for-3 on extra points to move to 33-of-34 on PATs for his career.