

West Virginia vs. Georgia State
Saturday, September 14, 2013
Morgantown, W.Va.

Game Notes

- Today's game captains: Nick Kwiatkoski, Pat Eger, Cody Clay, Shaq Rowell and Charles Sims. Coach Dana Holgorsen selects game captains each week. Team captains will be elected at the end of the season.
- There were five first-time starters for WVU today: Mario Alford, Ronald Carswell, Ford Childress, Daryl Worley and Kevin White. A total of 42 Mountaineers have at least one game of starting experience.
- With the win, WVU improves to 2-1 (0-1 Big 12) on the season. Today's meeting was the first ever between the two teams.
- With the win, WVU has won 99 of its last 133 regular-season games, and 104-of-144 overall games.
- WVU has now outrushed its opponents in 73-of-98 games; WVU's record is 73-25 in that span.
- Since 2000, WVU is 83-6 when scoring 30 or more points in a contest.

Coach Holgorsen Notes

- In the Holgorsen era, WVU has produced 40 or more points in 10 games.

Offense Notes

- In his first career game, redshirt-freshman Ford Childress finished 25-41-1 for 359 yards and three touchdowns.
- Childress' passing yards were the most for a freshman quarterback since Scott McBrien passed for 257 yards in a 38-28 loss to Pitt at Three Rivers Stadium on Nov. 24, 2000.
- Childress is the first WVU quarterback to throw at least three touchdowns since Geno Smith threw three against Kansas (Dec. 1, 2012).
- Daikiel Shorts' first quarter, 21-yard touchdown reception was the first of his career. He also snagged a 23-yard scoring catch in the fourth quarter; it was the longest catch of his career.
- Shorts is first Mountaineer to catch at least two touchdowns in a game since Stedman Bailey caught two against Syracuse in the Pinstripe Bowl on Dec. 29, 2012.
- Ronald Carswell now shows two catches this season for 40+ yards, including today's 43-yard reception. He also had a 69-yard scoring catch in the William & Mary win on Aug. 31.
- Ivan McCartney's second quarter, 45-yard touchdown reception was his longest catch of 2013. The score was his first touchdown since scoring on a 51-yard catch in the 43-16 win over Connecticut in Morgantown on Oct. 8, 2011.
- Charles Sims' 32-yard rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter was his second score of the season.
- Sims finished with 116 yards rushing, his second 100-yard rushing game of the season.
- Dreamius Smith's 10-yard rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter was his second score in as many games.
- WVU's 604 total offense were the most since gaining 647 yards against Kansas (Dec. 1, 2012).

- WVU scored 21 points in the fourth quarter. It marked the first time WVU tallied 20 or more points in a quarter this season, and the first since scoring 21 against Kansas in the second quarter on Dec. 1, 2012.

Defense Notes

- Kyle Rose's second-quarter sack was the first of his career.
- Will Clarke's second-quarter sack was his first of the season and the 4.5 of his career.
- Nick Kwiatkoski's third-quarter sack was the first of his career.
- Kwiatkoski forced a fumble in the fourth quarter, the first of his career. The fumble was recovered by Karl Joseph, his second career recovery and his first since at Iowa State (Nov. 23, 2012).
- GSU's 84 passing yards were the fewest allowed by the Mountaineers under coach Dana Holgorsen. The previous low was 112 vs. James Madison (2012).

Special Teams Notes

- Josh Lambert finished the game 5-for-5 on extra-point attempts; he went 2-for-3 on field goal attempts, connecting on kicks of 42 yards (first quarter) and 23 yards (third quarter), and missing a 53-yard attempt in the second.

NOTING GEORGIA STATE

Travis Evans' 65-yard touchdown run is the longest run in school history. The previous long was a 62-yard non-scoring run by WR Sidney Haynes vs. Lamar in 2010. Evans' run is the fourth-longest play from scrimmage in GSU history; the three longer plays are all receptions by Albert Wilson.

Evans rushed for a career-high 118 yards. His previous high was 98 yards vs. James Madison in 2012.

Six true freshmen started the game for the Panthers, three on offense and three on defense:

WR Robert Davis, TE Keith Rucker, G Brandon Pertile, DE Shawayne Lawrence, LB Kight Dallas

A total of 12 freshmen have now played for the Panthers this season, the six above plus:

RB Kyler Neal, RB Jonathan Jean-Bart (played for first time today), LB Jameel Spencer, DL Tevin Jones, DL Carnell Hopson, TE Bill Teknipp.

Brent McClendon's interception in the second quarter is the fourth of his career, tied for second in school history.

West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen

Opening statement

When we started the second half, I thought we played with a lot of energy. We have been focused on that all week - getting guys playing that are positive with their body language. We accomplished what we wanted to on all three sides of the ball. We got a lot of snaps, and we will look at film to keep getting better.

On the play of redshirt-freshman quarterback Ford Childress

Pretty good for the first game he has ever played in college football. I look for different things than you do in completion percentage and yards. I thought his body language was good and that he handled everything well. He was communicating well with the running backs, receivers, in the huddle and with (coach) Shannon (Dawson). I thought he did a good job of just being in the game. That is what we are looking for. If you have a guy like that, then he can bring a lot of other guys along.

I am still not happy with our tempo. I got on him in the fourth quarter about that. A lot of that is me, but he needs to help us with that. He needs to get guys lined up and ready to go. We still have long way to go with tempo.

On injuries affecting the team

I don't think (they are) a whole lot. (Redshirt-freshman defensive lineman) Noble (Nwachukwu) has been dinged up. He is a back up and has not been taking many snaps. Isaiah Bruce is a guy that we have been leaning on, but he wasn't feeling good so we just wanted to let him rest. That allowed (Eric) Kinsey to get a lot more reps and (Marvin) Gross on the outside. I thought Daryl Worley stepped up and played well.

Injuries are a part of the game. I told the team you have to understand what your role is and be excited about it. If you are not excited about your role then change it. If you can't change it then you can either accept it or do something else. Injuries are going to happen. If you are a second-team guy, then you need to be ready to go in and be productive. I pat Ford on the back for that. He did it for three games and was number three. He kept his head in it and worked hard, and he knew we would call his number; he took advantage of it. We need a team full of people who are like that.

On (redshirt-sophomore linebacker) Nick Kwiatkoski

He is developing. He is only a redshirt-sophomore. He is as healthy as he has ever been. He is a smart guy and is allowing himself to be coached. He has worked his body into phenomenal shape. There is a mental aspect to the game of football that you have to be able to understand, and right now he really understands it. Keith (Patterson) has been very happy with him. He had eight tackles today, which is pretty good, and forced a fumble. He has been playing like that for going on three games now.

Georgia State Coach Trent Miles

Opening statement

Obviously we're very disappointed with the results. I thought our kids battled, but that should be a given. We executed poorly in certain situations, which allowed the game to get a little out of hand. You can't go out and have as many penalties as we did. We had seven penalties and most of them were illegal procedures. Little things like holding are going to happen here and there, but it really puts your pace behind and gets you in bad yardage situations. We had way too many third and longs and second and longs. We weren't able to sustain any drives.

When that happened, I thought our kids battled defensively for the most part, but there were a few plays where we got out of our responsibilities. We didn't have our safety in the middle when he was supposed to be. We gave up at least one touchdown that way. A guy got out of his gap as well.

The score at the end - we had at least four guys hit him. We're very disappointed that the outcome is the way it is. We're disappointed in the execution. I'm not going to sit here and tell you that we're happy with the way that we competed because again, that should be a given in the program. We should move on from that and go out and focus on the way we perform and execute. I think that's where we're at.

On running back Travis Evans record-breaking touchdown

Our history is not very long. Obviously it was blocked well, and he did a great job and, we're happy with that. We need more of those, and we have to be able to find consistent drives.

We had way too many three and outs. We put our defense on the field for a long period of time. I looked at total plays. They ran 83 plays, we ran 51. Any time your guys are out there for 83 plays, they're going to get worn down, especially when you step up a level and you play a BCS team. You saw how they look compared to us. They're bigger than us. The longer they're out there, the more they're going to run down.

That goes back to the offense being able to control the ball. We came in and tried to run the football. I thought they did a good job of staying with it and continuing to try to call it. We have to be able to sustain drives. It's good to have that long run, but take that out, and it's not real good.

On WVU redshirt-freshman quarterback Ford Childress

He looked like he played solid. He had some good throws. I don't get in to evaluating what they're doing. I'm watching my guys. I'll leave that up to Dana (Holgorsen). I'm worried about my team.

On atmosphere

It was a good crowd. I enjoyed it. If your players can't get fired up to play in front of that, that's not good. I'm used to it. That's where I feel at home. I enjoy that stage and eventually, hopefully, that will be Georgia State in the future.

But a loss is a loss. I'm a very competitive person.