



27th Annual Motel 6 Cactus Bowl

Chase Field – Phoenix, Ariz. - January 2, 2016

Postgame Notes

West Virginia Mountaineers (8-5; 4-5) 43, Arizona State Sun Devils (6-7; 4-5) 42

Scoring	1	2	3	4	Final
West Virginia	9	13	14	7	43
Arizona State	3	15	14	10	42

Attendance: **39,321**

Start Time: **8:25 p.m.** Duration: **4:09**

Offensive Player of the Game: **#3 Skylar Howard**

Defensive Player of the Game: **#36 Shaq Petteway**

Sportsmanship Award: **#8 D.J. Foster**

New Cactus Bowl Records

- ASU's **blocked kick returned for a PAT** at the end of the second quarter was the **first** such occurrence in the **27-year history of the Cactus Bowl**. The kick was blocked by #17 Ismael Murphy-Richardson and returned 98 yards by Tim White. It was also the **first returned PAT in ASU history**.
- The two teams **combined to break the Cactus Bowl record** for most **field goals made** in just the first half of play, with a combined six at the break. All told, the **new record** now stands at **seven** (ASU 4; WVU 3); the previous record of five was set in the 2005 game between ASU and Rutgers.
- They also **combined to tie the most field goals attempted mark for a Cactus Bowl** with **eight**, co-held by Iowa and Oklahoma in 2011.
- ASU's **Zane Gonzalez set the Cactus Bowl mark** for the **most field goals attempted with five** and **tied the bowl's record for most field goals made with four**, set by Rutgers's Jeremy Ito against Arizona State in 2005.
- **Zane Gonzalez's 16 points** tied the mark for **most points by a kicker in a Cactus Bowl** (4 FG, 4 PAT); Rutgers's Ito also had 16 in the 2005 game.
- The most competitive Cactus Bowl in history, tonight's **eight lead changes** were the **most in Cactus Bowl history**. The previous record of three lead changes happened at the 2012 Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl (Michigan State 17, TCU 16) and 2005 Insight Bowl (ASU 46, Rutgers 40).

- The final **margin of one** was also **tied for the closest Cactus Bowl in history**. Both the 2012 (Michigan State 17, TCU 16) and the 2009 (Iowa State 14, Minnesota 13) games were decided by the same margin.
- ASU's **Tim White** set the Cactus Bowl **record for kickoff return yards** with **177 yards**, passing the mark of 174 set by Minnesota's Troy Stoudemire vs. Kansas in 2008. White's 289 total all-purpose yards (79 receiving; 33 punt returns) set an ASU bowl record, breaking Wilford White's record of 247 in the 1951 Salad Bowl.
- **WVU's Skyler Howard** set a **Cactus Bowl record with five touchdown** passes. ASU's Mike Bercovici four touchdown passes tied him for the second-most in bowl history with seven others. The **combined nine passing touchdowns** was also a **new Cactus Bowl record**; ASU co-held the previous mark of seven with Rutgers from their 2005 game.
- **Skyler Howard** also set a **new Cactus Bowl record for passing yardage** with **532 yards**, breaking Drew Bledsoe of Washington State's record of 476 yards set in 1992 vs. Utah.
- **The combined net passing yards of 950 shattered the previous Cactus Bowl record** of 841, also set in the ASU-Rutgers '05 game.
- **West Virginia's 532 net passing yards** also set the **Cactus Bowl record**, passing Washington State's 492 vs. Utah in 1992.
- **Howard's 555 total offensive yards** (23 rushing) represents a **new Cactus Bowl record** and the first player in the bowl's history to eclipse the 500-yard mark.
- This was the **first Cactus Bowl** that featured a **400-yard passer from each team**. It was also just the sixth game to have a 400-yard passer from either team (2010, 2006, 2005, 1998, 1994 and 1992).
- **Arizona State's 214 kickoff return yards** set a **new Cactus Bowl record**; Boston College had the previous mark at 212 vs. Colorado in 1999.
- The game duration of **4:09 set the mark** for the **longest game in Cactus Bowl history**, surpassing 4:06 set in 1992 by Washington State and Utah.

Additional Cactus Bowl Notes

- The blocked extra point kick was also just the **second blocked PAT in Cactus Bowl history**; the last blocked PAT was at the **2001 Insight Bowl** by Kansas State vs. Syracuse. ASU's last blocked PAT was by James Brooks at Arizona, Dec. 2, 2010. WVU had not missed an extra point since 2013.
- The **four-point margin** at half was the **closest Cactus Bowl contest at half since 2002** when Pitt and Oregon State ended the first half tied at 10-10.
- This was the **fourth Cactus Bowl in which a team had two receivers with 100+ yards**; WVU's Shelton Gibson finished with 143 yards on four catches and Ka'raun White finished with 116 yards on four catches.
- ASU's **DJ Foster** reeled in a catch in the first quarter for his **53rd consecutive game with a reception**, the longest active streak in FBS and a Pac-12 record.
- Despite the offensive fireworks, the **combined rushing attempts** actually ranked as **one of the fewest in Cactus Bowl history**. 65 combined rushes (WVU 33; ASU 32) is the **third-fewest** in the Cactus Bowl behind only 51 in the 2004 and 62 in 1993.



FOOTBALL

WVU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS
PO Box 877 | Morgantown, WV 26507-0877
304.293.2821

WVUSPORTS.com

WEST VIRGINIA vs. ARIZONA STATE // POSTGAME NOTES 2016 Motel 6 Cactus Bowl // Chase Field // January 2, 2016

WVU's 43-42 victory over Arizona State in the Motel 6 Cactus Bowl is the team's first bowl victory since the 2012 Orange Bowl.

Skyler Howard finished with 532 passing yards, a career single-game best. The mark also is a WVU bowl record, besting the previous record of 429, set by Marc Bulger vs. Missouri at the 1998 Insight.com Bowl, now known as the Cactus Bowl.

WVU finished with 676 total yards of offense, a season high and WVU bowl record.

Howard's passing total also is a Cactus Bowl single-game record, besting the previous mark of 476, set by Drew Bledsoe, Washington State vs. Utah (1992).

Howard finished with five touchdown passes, a Cactus Bowl and career record. The previous Cactus Bowl record was four, held by six players, including WVU quarterback Marc Bulger vs. Missouri in 1998.

Howard's 532 passing mark is the second-best single-game performance in WVU history.

Howard's 334 passing yards in the first half marks his most career passing yards in a half.

Howard's 555 yards of total offense is a Cactus Bowl and WVU bowl record. He is the first WVU player to net more than 500 yards total offense since Clint Trickett (507 yards) at Maryland on Sept. 13, 2014.

Howard finished the year with 26 touchdown passes, the fourth-best single-season total in program history.

Howard moved into fifth place on the WVU single-season passing chart tonight, as his 532 yards pushed his season total to 3,145 yards. The total is the third-best season mark for a junior.



WVUFootball



@WVUFootball

#HailWV



@MountaineerFootball

With 28 passing completions tonight, Howard finishes the 2015 season with 221 passing completions, the sixth-best single-season total in program history.

Ka'Raun White's first quarter, 53-yard reception was a career long. He finished the half with a career-best 116 yards receiving, giving him his first career 100-yard reception game.

Redshirt junior Josh Lambert had three field goals in the first half and moved up to a tie for third place all-time with 21 field goals made this season; his is tied with Paul Woodside (1983). His 68 career field goals is second in program history.

Lambert's second extra-point attempt tonight was blocked, snapping a personal streak of 109 consecutive extra points made.

Tonight marks the fourth time this season Lambert has made three field goals in a game. He now shows 21 career games with multiple field goals made.

Elijah Wellman's first quarter, 17-yard rush was a career long.

Shelton Gibson's second quarter, 59-yard touchdown reception was his ninth touchdown of the season. The catch was his third longest of the year; all three of his long catches have gone for touchdowns.

White (116) and Gibson (106) each finished the half with more than 100 yards receiving, marking the second time this season WVU has had two 100-yard receivers in a game. The duo finished the game with 116 and 143 yards receiving, respectively.

Howard's second quarter, 59-yard touchdown to Shelton Gibson was his fifth scoring pass of 50 yards or more this season.

Daikiel Shorts finished with touchdown catches of 10 and 17 yards, giving him his first two-score game of the season and the second of his career.

Gary Jennings' third quarter, 64-yard touchdown reception was his first career touchdown and a career-long catch. The touchdown was WVU's second-longest scoring play of the season.

Jennings' 21-yard punt return was WVU's longest of the 2015 season.

David Sills' fourth quarter, 15-yard touchdown was his second of the season.

With 72 rushing yards tonight, Wendell Smallwood pushed his season rushing total to 1,519, the fourth-best mark in program history.

Jared Barber's seven unassisted tackles match his season game high, first set at Kansas State.

Dravon Askew-Henry's seven total tackles match his career single-game high.

With the win, WVU evens the all-time series record with Arizona State at 1-1.

Since 2000, WVU is 101-13 when scoring 30 or more points in a contest and 52-4 when scoring 40 or more points in a game.

WVU finishes the 2015 season with an 8-5 mark. The Mountaineers' eight victories are their most since joining the Big 12 Conference in 2012.

ASU CACTUS BOWL POSTGAME NOTES

OPENERS

--ASU drops to 3-2 in bowl games since Todd Graham arrived in Tempe. Graham is now 5-3 all-time in bowl games as a head coach.

--ASU is now 1-1 all-time in the Cactus Bowl (formerly the Insight Bowl) and 14-14-1 all-time in bowl appearances.

ASU BOWL RECORDS

--Mike Bercovici tied the ASU bowl record with four touchdown passes (Rudy Carpenter vs. Rutgers, 2005 Insight Bowl: Taylor Kelly vs. Navy, 2012 Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl).

--Tim White's 289 all-purpose yards broke Wilford White's 1951 Salad Bowl record of 247. His 177 kickoff return yards broke Rudy Burgess' 2007 Holiday Bowl record of 150.

--Zane Gonzalez's four field goals broke an ASU school record for field goals in a bowl game. The previous high was three made field goals, accomplished six times in previous bowl games.

OFFENSE

In Berco We Trust

--Mike Bercovici threw for 418 yards and four touchdowns, giving him 30 passing touchdowns on the year, tying the ASU single-season record (Andrew Walter, 2004).

Foster The People

--D.J. Foster had five catches for 40 yards on Saturday. He recorded a reception in all 53 games of his ASU career, the longest streak in Pac-12 history.

Love Me Some Lucien

--Devin Lucien finished with nine catches for 144 yards and a touchdown and finishes with 1,075 receiving yards on the year.

--ASU now has a 1,000-yard rusher (Demario Richard) and 1,000-yard receiver in two straight years for the first time in school history and the sixth time overall.

Fully-Loaded Chambers

--Gary Chambers' 58-yard touchdown catch was the longest catch of his Sun Devil career.

All-Purpose Tim

--Tim White recorded his second multi-touchdown performance of the season, finishing with 79 receiving yards and two scores.

--He also added 177 kickoff return yards to finish with 972 kickoff return yards this season, the most in ASU history.

Jalen Jumping For Joy

--Jalen Harvey had three catches for 32 yards on Saturday, the first game in his ASU career with more than one reception.

DEFENSE

--Salamo Fiso recorded his first interception of the season, and the second of his career, in the first quarter.

--Linebacker Antonio Longino finished with three tackles for loss on Saturday. He finished with 22.5 TFL this season, the sixth-highest single-season total in ASU history.

SPECIAL TEAMS

--Zane Gonzalez recorded 16 points (four field goals and four extra points) against West Virginia. He now has 386 career points in his Sun Devil career, the highest career total in school history.

--Matt Haack downed a punt inside the opponent's 20-yard line for the 31st time this season.

EXPLOSIVE PLAYS

Devin Lucien – 19-yard reception

Devin Lucien – 29-yard reception

Devin Lucien – 21-yard reception

Devin Lucien – 19-yard TD reception

D.J. Foster – 16-yard reception

Jalen Harvey – 22-yard reception

Devin Lucien – 18-yard reception

Demario Richard – 22-yard run

Kody Kohl – 19-yard reception

Tim White – 40-yard reception

Devin Lucien – 16-yard reception

Tim White – 33-yard TD reception

Manny Wilkens – 14-yard run

Gary Chambers – 58-yard TD reception