



FOOTBALL

WVU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

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WEST VIRGINIA VS. BAYLOR / POSTGAME NOTES MILAN PUSKAR STADIUM // DECEMBER 3, 2016

West Virginia reached the 10-win plateau for the ninth time in 125 years and the second time under coach Dana Holgorsen. Other double-digit win teams include 10 wins in 2011, 11 in 2007, 11 in 2006, 11 in 2005, 11 in 1993, 11 in 1988, 10 in 1969 and 10 in 1922. Holgorsen joins Rich Rodriguez (3) and Don Nehlen (2) as the only three coaches to record multiple 10-win seasons at WVU.

Redshirt junior safety Marvin Gross Jr. was West Virginia's lone first-time starter against Baylor. WVU has a total of 35 players with at least one game of starting experience, and 13 Mountaineers have earned their first career start in the 2016 season. Redshirt senior Tylor Orlosky made his team-leading 41st career start.

With the 24-21 win over Baylor, West Virginia (10-2, 7-2 Big 12) finishes tied for second with Oklahoma State in the Big 12. It marks the highest finish for the Mountaineers since joining the league in 2012.

West Virginia's 422 yards marked the 73rd time in the Dana Holgorsen era that WVU has 300 or more yards of total offense, 55th time that WVU has produced a game with 400 or more yards of total offense. With 311 rushing yards on Saturday, West Virginia has rushed for 300 or more yards eight times under Holgorsen.

West Virginia has won 15 of its last 18 games, dating back to Texas Tech on Nov. 7, 2015. The Mountaineers are now 5-1 against Baylor all-time.

Justin Crawford ran the ball 28 times for 209 yards on Saturday, becoming the 25th Mountaineer to eclipse the 1,000-yard rushing plateau in a season. Crawford is the third 1,000-yard rusher under coach Dana Holgorsen. Wendell Smallwood rushed for 1,519 yards in 2015 and Charles Sims tallied 1,095 yards in 2013.

Crawford is the first Mountaineer to rush for 200 or more yards in multiple games since Pat White and Steve Slaton did so during the 2006 season. Crawford ran 24 times for 331 yards against Oklahoma on November 19. Crawford's 63-yard rush in the third quarter was his longest of the season, passing his previous best of 61-yards against Oklahoma earlier this season.

West Virginia has back-to-back 1,000-yard rushers for the first time since 2009 after Smallwood recorded 1,519 yards last season and Crawford 1,168 yards this season. WVU had 1,000-yard rushers for five consecutive seasons from 2005 to 2009.

Marvin Gross Jr. made his first career interception at 14:07 in the first quarter. Gross is the sixth different Mountaineer to make an interception this season.

Gross also recorded his first career sack in the third quarter for a four-yard loss. His second sack later in the third quarter resulted in a forced fumble and a fumble recovery for the Mountaineers. The forced fumble was Gross' second of his career with the other forced fumble coming earlier this season against TCU. In total, Gross finished with two sacks, a forced fumble and an interception.

Senior Darrien Howard made his first career fumble recovery in the third quarter at the Baylor four yard line. Howard is the ninth Mountaineer to recover a fumble this season. West Virginia has recovered 10 fumbles in 2016.

Redshirt freshman defensive lineman Adam Shuler II recorded his first career sack with a sack of Baylor quarterback Zach Smith in the first quarter. Shuler finished Saturday's contest with two tackles.

Redshirt junior Mike Molina made a career-long 50-yard field goal with 2:23 left in the first quarter. It marks just the 18th time a WVU kicker had made a field goal from 50 yards or longer. Molina is just the ninth West Virginia kicker to connect on a field goal 50 yards or longer. Others include: Josh Lambert, Paul Woodside, Brad Cooper, Tyler Bitancurt, Pat McAfee, Jay Taylor, Jon Ohlinger and Ed Kenna.

Senior safety Jeremy Tyler made his third career interception in the second quarter. Tyler's other interceptions include one against Maryland in 2015 and one against BYU earlier this season on September 24.

Dating back to 2014 under Tony Gibson, the defense has forced a turnover in 30 of 38 games. In the Tony Gibson Era, WVU is 19-1 when opponents score less than 25 points. WVU's defense has held Big 12 opponents to fewer than 25 points in 11 of the past 13 games.

With four takeaways against Baylor, the WVU defense has forced a turnover in 11 of 12 games in 2016 and 16 of the last 18 games. WVU is 81-11 since 2002 when winning the turnover battle.

West Virginia's two interceptions mark the third time that the Mountaineers have recorded multiple INTs. West Virginia had three against BYU (September 24) and two against Kansas (November 5).

Baylor was held scoreless in the first and second quarters on Saturday. WVU has held opponents scoreless in 14 quarters this season.

A crowd of 49,229 attended Saturday's game at Milan Puskar Stadium. The Mountaineers averaged 57,583 fans per game in seven home contests this year, which ranks ninth-most in program history. A total of 403,804 fans entered the turnstiles this season, marking the fifth-most in program history and the highest since 401,216 fans watched seven contests during the 2009 season.

With his 58-yard pass completion to Gary Jennings in the third quarter, quarterback Skyler Howard has completed 17 passes this season for more than 40 yards. The 58-yard completion was Jennings' longest catch of the season.

WVU is 19-8 with Howard as the starting quarterback, that mark ties Dan Kendra (1974-78) and Chad Johnston (1994-96) for eighth-most victories at WVU in the modern era.

Howard's 10 completions tied Pat White (2005-08) for third-most career completions in program history at 507.

Howard's two touchdown passes on Saturday surpassed Marc Bulger (1996-99) for second-most touchdown passes thrown as a Mountaineer with 60.

With his 26 rushing yards and 111 passing yards, Howard moved to No. 4 all-time in total offense in a single-season with 499 plays for 3,594 yards, passing Marc Bulger's (1998) 3,515 yards on 452 plays.

Howard surpassed his own single-season completion mark of 221 last season with his 10 completions for 230 completions this season, which ranks sixth. That mark is sixth all-time at West Virginia. Howard moved to seventh with his 378 passing attempts.

With his two thrown touchdown passes on Saturday, Howard ties his own record of 26 set last season, which ranks fourth all-time in a single-season.

Howard's two passing touchdowns and one rushing touchdown moved him to 35 touchdowns responsible for this season. That mark passes Geno Smith's 33 in 2011 for second-most all-time in a single-season. Howard has 75 touchdowns responsible for in his career, which is third all-time.

With his three receptions tonight, Daikiel Shorts moved to fifth all-time in career receptions surpassing Shawn Foreman's 169 catches from 1995 to 1998. With his touchdown, Shorts is tied with Jock Sanders (2007-10) for 14th all-time in touchdown receptions with 14.