



TOP

SBU Falls To AR Tech In Home Opener

SEPTEMBER 11TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

SBU Falls To AR Tech In Home Opener

From Jeff Weseloh, SBU Director of Athletic Media Relations

Charles Johnson Leads the Bearcats with 3 TD's Against Arkansas Tech.

Bolivar, Mo. - The SBU Bearcats had a stellar offensive performance on Saturday night against Arkansas Tech, but came up short to the Golden Boys, losing 31-20. Charles Johnson lead the Bearcat offense with seven receptions for 107 yards and three touchdowns.

Arkansas Tech jumped out to a quick 14-0 lead before SBU was able to respond in the first quarter. With 6:34 to go in the first, SBU quarterback Justin French completed a 20 yard pass to Johnson to pull SBU within 7. Arkansas Tech would go on to score 10 more points in the half, and take a 24-7 halftime lead.

In the second half, the Bearcats brought in Dan Connors to take over the offense. Arkansas Tech struck first, taking a 31-7 lead, before SBU started battling back. Late in the third quarter, Connors threw a beautiful 23 yard pass to the back corner of the endzone to Johnson for a touchdown. The two would connect again in the fourth quarter for seven yard touchdown, but the comeback fell just short.

Connors had a great first game as a Bearcat, completing 14 of 23 passes for 166 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. The

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Bearcats were lead in rushing by French who had 56 yards rushing, and were leading in tackling by Zach Moore and Alain Pierre who each had eight tackles.

"I apologize to the Bearcat faithful for our performance tonight," head coach Keith Allen stated after the game. "I obviously didn't do a very good job in preparing our team. I will work much harder this week in our preparation. I was happy with our teams fight and effort and the fact they didn't quit. But you aren't going to win many games when you turn the ball over five times and commit 14 penalties. We will work hard this week to rectify those issues."

The Bearcats will be back in action next Saturday, September 17, when they travel to Hays, Kansas to take on Fort Hays State. Kickoff is set for 7:00 p.m.

Southwest Baptist University is a four-year evangelical Christian university that was established in 1878. The main campus is located about 30 minutes north of Springfield, Missouri, in Bolivar, a town of approximately 10,000 people.

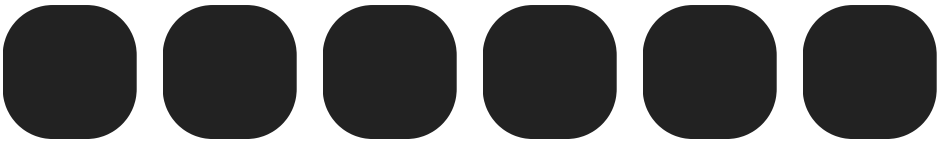
DHS alum Glen Johnson is a defensive lineman for the Bearcats.

For more information on SBU Bearcat Athletics, visit sbubearcats.com.

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Bearcat 'D' Struggles Against Sikeston

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Bearcat 'D' Struggles Against Sikeston

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

The Sikeston Bulldogs proved to be too much for the ‘Cats to handle on Friday night at Charles Bland Stadium.

Sikeston’s speed and outstanding ground game took a toll on the Bearcat defense, and the Bulldogs handed Dexter the first loss of the season with a 57-30 final score. Head coach Aaron Pixley noted that tackling and penalties again proved to be big problems for the Bearcats in the contest.

“We talked about it all week long, about how we had to tackle these guys. Whenever you get in space there with them, you’ve gotta make sure you wrap up real well, and I think we were over-pursuing quite a bit on defense,” Pixley said. “Turnovers, big penalties got us again tonight.”

The Bearcats’ defense struggled with over-pursuing the speedy Sikeston running backs, which led to big plays for the Bulldogs.

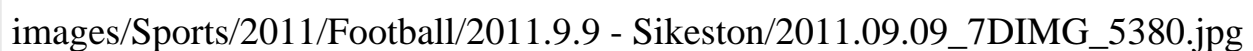
“I told them after the game, any time you have a defense that over-pursues a lot, that’s aggressive kids, but you have to correct a few things along the way to correct the over-pursuit,” Pixley continued. “That’s what we have to do. We have to tackle better. They hit way too many big plays on us. If you don’t tackle these guys, they build momentum.”

Watson proved to be the biggest challenge for the Bearcat defense. Watson's incredible speed, coupled with the Bulldogs' misdirection-oriented offensive schemes, helped the running back to 332 rushing yards and two touchdowns in the contest. "[Watson] is good...he's not an overly big kid; he's very fast. The style of offense they run is really conducive to a super-fast kid like that," Pixley said. "Their other backs are good, but the Watson kid, they got us on the gives up the middle as well as some runs off-tackle. Part of the reason for that was their misdirection prior to the handoff. They're a very good football team."

Despite the final score, the 'Cats were in the game until midway through the third quarter, and the Dexter offense moved the ball well for most of the game.

Senior Zach Watson picked up a fumble to setup a short field and touchdown for the 'Cats early in the third quarter, but an onside kick that Sikeston recovered was the 'nail in the coffin' for the Bearcats. "30 points will win you a lot of football games. We come right out, get a fumble, take it down and score to tie it 22-22, and it's anybody's game," Pixley said. "They come back, score, get the onside kick, and score again, and that turned the momentum in their favor and we had a hard time coming back after that. We missed two possessions right there that our offense probably could have done something with."

Quarterback Cody Stevens (9-22 for 148 yards, one touchdown, and two INT's passing, 101 rushing yards on 16 attempts and one touchdown) had a great game for the Bearcats. Despite the low completion percentage and two early picks, the senior showed some great leadership late in the game.



With
just

over four minutes left in the contest, the senior QB scrambled for 26 yards to set up a 28 yard touchdown pass to Tyler Miller on the next play. The touchdown drive was too little, too late for the Bearcats, but it gave the squad a much-needed burst of positive energy.

"They were up big there, and we were doing a good job moving the football, and I felt like we could continue to move it," Pixley said of the drive. "Our kids responded and had a great attitude. In the fourth quarter, our kids were great about saying 'hey, this is okay, lets just keep playing hard and get something positive out of this', and I think they're going to recover from it and be better for it."

Both teams move to 2-1 on the season after the contest.

The Bearcats will be on the field next Friday, when they hit the road to face the Scott City Rams. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

For a full breakdown of the game's stats, [click here](#).

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Dexter vs Sikeston - STARTING LINEUPS

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Dexter vs Sikeston - STARTING LINEUPS

Tonight is a big night for the Bearcats - predictions indicated that tonight's game against the Sikeston Bulldogs will be one of the most challenging of the season. The Bearcats have a full roster and from all indications, they are excited and ready to play football.

The Starting lineups for tonight's contest will remain much the same as previous weeks. Aside from a few bumps and bruises, the Bearcats are healthy.

Defensively, the Bearcats will face a huge challenge of speed with the Bulldogs. That quickness combined with the multiple fake hand-offs will be tough for the 'Cats to determine who has the football. But, the Bearcat defense has proven themselves to be able to rise to the occasion thus far and should provide a roadblock for the 'Dogs.

Offensively, the Bearcat will need to eliminate some of the mistakes from last week's game. The execution of the offense was outstanding, but penalties nullified what would have been several great plays by the offensive unit in the second half last week.

Look for some great action from quarterback Cody Stevens as he leads the offense tonight. Stevens has shown great running ability and an arm that needs to be respected by opponents.

Those Bearcats expected to start tonight's contest are:

Bearcat Defensive Unit

[images/Blog Images/show/uk7m](#)

Bearcat Offensive Unit

images/Blog Images/show/uk7j

Bearcat Specialty Position & Others Likely To See Playing Time

images/Blog Images/show/uk7k

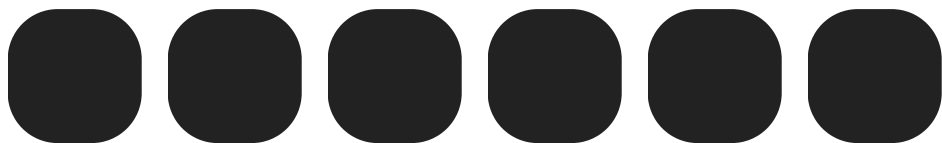
Pre-game action will begin tonight around 6:00 pm with warm-ups for both teams. The actual game time begins around 7:00 pm. You will be able to catch the "live" Bearcat action on the Facebook or Twitter page for updates on the score and big plays!

You can also catch Rob Mayer, Andrew Stuever and Jason Comfort tonight on 102.3 FM KDEX. Their broadcast will begin with a Pre-Game Show at 6:30.

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Bearcats Set To Face Off Against Sikeston

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Bearcats Set To Face Off Against Sikeston

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

The Dexter Bearcats will face one of their toughest tests of the season tonight when they host the Sikeston Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs are 1-1 on the season, after suffering a big week one loss to Gateway Tech, but fresh from an explosive offensive performance against Charleston last week.

Head coach Aaron Pixley felt the team had a solid week of practices, and noted Sikeston's speed as the main area of concern.

"[Practice has] been going well," Pixley commented. "I always feel that we can get better at a lot of things, I think we can practice better a lot of times. We've had excellent moments, and some not so great, but overall, we've had solid practices all week."

"I'm concerned with their [Sikeston's] speed, period. One of the fastest teams around, if not the fastest. It's just something that we'll have to line up right and execute. The only way to beat speed is by being in the right spot and doing your job," Pixley continued. "Alignment, assignment, and then explode."

Pixley felt the team struggled with tackling after last week's contest with Park Hills, and noted that the same mistakes cannot be made against the Bulldogs.



"When we do get there on defense, we have to tackle - if we're sloppy with tackling and miss, they'll take it to the house every time," he said.

The 'Cats received some great news yesterday: running back/linebacker Nick Summers is cleared to play in the contest.

Summers suffered a shoulder injury during the Park Hills game and was pulled after the first half for precautionary measures, but after an appointment with team physician Dr. Bobby Jibben on Thursday, the senior has been given the 'green light' to be on the field in full capacity tonight.

"I can't believe we were that close to holding [Nick] out this Friday," Pixley said. "Nick is a playmaker and we sure are glad to have him in the lineup."

The contest between Dexter and Sikeston at Charles Bland Stadium is set to get underway at 7:00 p.m.

If you can't make it to the game, make sure to check out our Facebook or Twitter page for updates on the score and big plays!

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From Jeff Weseloh, SBU Director of Athletics Media Relations

SBU Football to host Arkansas Tech in Home Opener on Saturday, September 10

Bolivar, Mo. - The SBU Bearcats enter into their 2nd game of the 2011 season after coming off an electrifying comeback win against the Bacone Warriors.

The Bearcats look to continue their winning streak to three seasons after a record of (7-4) in the 2010 season. Fifth year coach Keith Allen is excited to lead his SBU Bearcats into the season with an oppening win, and has high expectations of their second win coming this weekend against the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys.

Last week, the scoring for SBU was started in the first half by Raymond Segura returning an interception 28 yards for the touchdown. The Interception was the fire that SBU need to get their offense moving. During the 2nd half, SBU came out on fire and scored three straight tuchdowns. Two of the scores came from Justin Duhaney and Thad Everson who both recorded rushing touchdowns. Justin French also had one passing touchdown that come late in 3rd quarter when he connected with Derwyn Lauderdale for a 16 yard score.

Things are looking good for the Bearcats as they go into the next game this weekend against the Wonder Boys. Coach Allen's theme contiunes to be "Leave no Doubt". He wants all of his athlets to have the mind set of "Every day you come to work, every day you've got to get better, every day you have to compete."

Kickoff is set for 6:00 p.m. from Plaster Stadium in Bolivar.

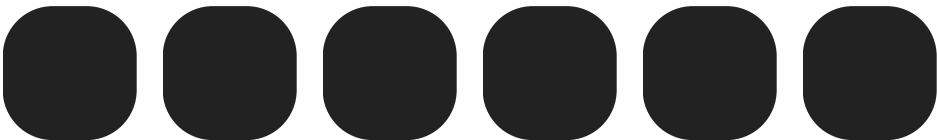
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