

fcs week #10: ladies first



leilania armenta became the first woman to score in a fcs match, hitting 3 extra points in jackson state's victory over arkansas pine bluff. armenta had already become the 12th woman to play in a college football game and the 6th in d1 history earlier this year when she handled a kickoff last month. however, she is only the 2nd ever at the fcs level, following ashley martin of jacksonville state who officially broke the barrier 22 years ago. martin kicked some pats too, but only against d2 opposition, so armenta is the first to actually score in a true fcs game.

armenta never expected to see any actual playing time with the football team. she is a soccer player who started practicing with the team while rehabbing from injury. coach taylor had asked her to dress as a contingency because one of his 2 kickers had a nagging injury. prior to kickoff, he learned that the 2nd kicker had strained himself during practice. thus, a small piece of history was made.

sidelines

- northwestern state has announced it will cancel the remainder of its season a week after s ronnie caldwell was found shot to death outside his apartment citing well being of its players and staff. immediately following, 6th year coach brad laird submitted his resignation citing his own mental health concerns in the wake of the tragedy.
- the villanova wildcats became the first fcs team to have 3 receivers, each with 100 yards, in a single game. rayjuan pringle, jaylan sanchez, and jaaron hayek combined for 400 yards receiving. unbelievably, they managed that on just 14 catches, meaning the average touch resulted in nearly 30 yards.
- holy cross superstar qb matthew sluka went down with an injury a week after setting the all time single game rushing record for qbs. his backup joe pesansky does not rush at all but took advantage of the opportunity by throwing for 340 yards in his debut. of course, it was the defense that saved the day against fordham. a pick 6 by matt duchenim gave the crusaders a very late lead which they only held onto by stopping a 2 point attempt.

aps picture

w 1 aps last week

next week

top dogs

*south dakota state
jackrabbits*

7	0	555	throttle rival #5 south dakota (below)	other rival #24 north dakota state in dakota marker game &
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				frisco rematch (below)
<i>lafayette leopards</i>	7	0	347	beat georgetown colgate
<i>delaware blue hens</i>	7	0	332	crush towson. rb marcus yarns scored 5 tds. elon
<i>harvard crimson</i>	6	1	331	prevail by keeping dartmouth out of end zone. coach murphy broke the all time record for ivy wins with 136. @ columbia
<i>south dakota coyotes</i>	6	1	323	fall to archnemesiis #1 south dakota state (below) @ #22 southern illinois
<i>in the hunt</i>				
<i>albany great danes</i>	6	1	305	beat maine william & mary
<i>idaho vandals</i>	5	1	291	come out on top of a back & forth nailbiter with #16 montana state @ northern colorado
<i>ut martin skyhawks</i>	6	1	274	fall in final seconds to #12 gardner webb @ tennessee tech
<i>dark horses</i>				
<i>florida a&m rattlers</i>	6	0	259	clinch spot in swac championship with blowout of prairie view @ alabama a&m
<i>furman paladins</i>	7	0	258	hold off eastern tennessee state @ chattanooga to crown socon champ
<i>villanova wildcats</i>	6	1	237	blowout stony brook @ new hampshire
<i>gardner webb runnnin' bulldogs</i>	4	2	233	last second comeback over #8 ut martin. also have very close wins over playoff team elon and #23 eastern kentucky @ bryant
<i>montana griz</i>	6	1	227	shutout northern colorado defending big sky champ sacramento state
<i>austin peay governors</i>	6	1	225	handle north alabama. also have a dominating win over #12 gardner webb. @ #23 eastern kentucky
<i>holy cross crusaders</i>	5	2	218	survive a duel with fordham thanks to a pick 6, a late stop, and some brilliance from their backup qb @ lehigh

montana state
bobcats

6	2	217	held to just 130 yards rushing by #7 idaho (vs 330 average) and miss potential game winning kick to end topsy turvy bout	northern arizona (below)
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dropping back: *there were a few upsets of some upstart contenders last week. **western carolina** fell to mercer thanks to a pick 6. **central arkansas** fell to tarleton state on a botched 2 point attempt. a late rally falls short as **penn** drops one to brown. some other teams were passed by thanks to weaker opponents. **north carolina central** remained dominant in its crushing of south carolina state, but the weaker meac schedule is causing some slippage. **southern illinois** smote hapless western illinois but was overtaken by some bigger wins.*

also rans: nc central eagles (6 – 0, 203), western carolina catamounts (5 – 2, 195), north dakota fighting hawks (5 – 2, 191), southern illinois salukis (5 – 2, 190), northern iowa panthers (5 – 2, 172), central arkansas bears (4 – 2, 163), eastern kentucky colonels (4 – 2, 163), north dakota state bison (6 – 2, 162)

fcs game of week



last week: south dakota state jackrabbits (7 – 0, 555, #1) obliterate south dakota coyotes (6 – 1, 323, #5), 37 – 3

the jackrabbits dominated in this contest. they held a 3 to 1 edge in total yards, a 5 to 1 edge in rushing, and a 12 minute advantage in top. the game started slow enough with an active lb brock mogenson breaking up some drives in the opening quarter for the coyotes. once the 2nd quarter started, things came together for the jacks quickly. they would score on each of the game's remaining 7 drives. wr jaxon janke would make only 3 catches, but all 3 were deep bombs that set up scores. the d would force two turnovers—one a pick by leading tackler lb isaiah stalbird—and each would set up scores. the coyotes simply could not gain any traction as the jacks showed why they are a national champ and the frontrunner to repeat.



next week: north dakota state bison (6 – 2, 162, #24) @ south dakota state jackrabbits (7 – 0, 555, #1)



this bitter competition over a giant piece of granite sets up to be both similar to years past and simultaneously completely different. the same part: one team enters as a defending national champion with a winning streak going back 22 games (6th all time) and can boast 4 consecutive victories in this heated rivalry. the different part: that team is not the bison but the jackrabbits. the roles have reversed over the past year where now the team from brookings is the frontrunner and the bison are in pursuit. the bison, by every metric, are still a strong challenger, but having dropped both of their big games entering november, they are in the uncusomary position of fighting for their playoff lives. the jacks, on the other hand, could not look any better entering this contest. their offense has been able to impose its will with rb isaiah davis powering his way up the middle. their defense has been smothering thanks to a trio

of emerging stars at lb—stalbird, jason freeman, and adam bock. the bison are still a deeply talented program but retaking a national contender role will involve knocking jacks off their throne, something the jacks did to them not too long ago.

richmond spiders (6 – 2, 77)



last week: overpower campbell camels (4 – 4, 20), 44 – 13

the spiders dropped 4 tds on the camels in the 4th quarter, each spurred on by a turnover. the two teams were enmeshed in what had the makings of a defensive showdown until the spider defense decided enough was enough and gave the spider offense all it would need to put the game away. the final quarter opened with a pick 6 making it a 2 score game for the first time, and things went downhill for the camels thereafter. they did not manage to hang onto the ball for more than 2 consecutive minutes, and the mounting turnovers allowed the spiders to start each drive already in

camel territory. de marlem louis was a force with 2 strip sacks at critical times and otherwise applying pressure throughout. the camels kept pace early, but looked desperate and overmatched as the game wore on leading up to the eventual implosion.



spider of week—tristan wheeler

the lb quietly moved up to 2nd in spider history in tackles, adding another 12 in this game including 1.5 tfl. his most impactful play came in the final quarter when he blindsided the camel qb, jarred the ball free, and recovered it himself to set up a spider td.

next week: bye.

northern arizona lumberjacks (3 – 4, 6)



last week: trounce uc davis aggies (4 – 3, -12), 38 – 21

the aggies may have moved the ball, but it was the lumberjacks who made the big plays, turning a tight back and forth tilt into a one sided affair. aggie qb miles hastings had a big day on paper, throwing for 330 yards. he split most of that (270 yards) between

his two top receivers, trent tompkins and chaz davis, each of whom had 8 catches including 1 deep one for td. add to that, rb lan larinson's 100 yards on the ground, and this would have seemed to set up nicely for an aggie win. the lumberjack d had other thoughts. they would force 4 turnovers, 2 of which turned into both of their first half tds. the second of these would be likely the most critical of the game. immediately after fumbling the ball back to the aggies in the

shadow of their own end zone, dl eloi kwete came free for a sack knocking the ball loose, which was recovered and returned 90 yards for a td the other way. kwete would add another sack and 6 more tackles in the 2nd half, but his impact might have been felt mostly on two drive ending plays where he did not even make contact, flushing hastings out of the pocket on a pair of 4th downs. db zach lewis would add another interception and break up a would-be 3rd down conversion late too, which also would set up the l-jacks with some short fields. in the end, the aggies looked good on 2nd and 3rd, but the l-jacks were lockdown on 3rd, holding their opponent to a miserable 2 for 13 and keeping that high powered offense at bay.



next week: @ montana state bobcats (6 – 2, 217, #16)



the bobcats have made it to the semis in each of the last 3 seasons, and no one would be surprised to see them there again. they have already fallen short in a pair of close games against elite opponents, which coming off a season where they did not lose until another fcs opponent until the week of christmas, must make them appear at least a bit more vulnerable. on the other hand, all of their victories have been outright dominations. the bobcats are most known for their big cat / little cat offensive scheme that rotates qbs sean chambers and touchdown tommy mellott, sometimes playing both at once. chambers is the team's top rusher, and mellott now returned from injury is likely to chase him. in between the two, rb julius davis makes an imposing 3rd head to this rushing cereberus. when not running the ball into the ground, the bobcats have a pretty potent front 7 that between de ben seymour and lb nolan atkinson has been able to take control of nearly all their games. the lumberjacks came close to upsetting these same cats this year and still have the same edge in this matchup, passing. their receiving corps of coleman owen and brandon porter are consummate big play threats, and should they get out in front, the cats are not exactly designed for a shootout. the l-jacks have had to rotate through several qbs this season and still play multiple personnel under center each game, so getting the ball to owen and porter could be interesting. moreover, db rylan ortt leads a pretty decent secondary that probably remembers last year's scare too well to let the pair slip through coverage unchecked again.

playoff picture

projected autobids in ().

near lock: south dakota state (mo valley)

looking good: lafayette (patriot), delaware (caa), south dakota, albany

bubbling in: idaho (big sky), ut martin (big south ovc), furman (socon), villanova, gardner webb, montana, austin peay (united), holy cross, montana state, western carolina, north dakota, southern illinois, northern iowa, central arkansas, eastern kentucky, north dakota state

other conference leaders: incarnate word (southland), duquesne (nec), drake (pioneer)

bubbling out: mercer, elon, rhode island, youngstown, tennessee state, sacramento state, chattanooga