

Welcome To Week 2: Arkansas State



The season-opening 21-10 win against No. 5 Notre Dame (0-1) was just about everything that No. 2 Ohio State (1-0) could have asked for. The defense had an impressive debut under defensive coordinator Jim Knowles, allowing just 10 points and 253 total yards, but the offense experienced some unusual struggles following the loss of Jaxon Smith-Njigba.

Following the taxing opener against the Irish, this week will provide a brief respite for Ohio State in the form of Arkansas State (1-0), and we're taking a look at what the Red Wolves will bring into Ohio Stadium this Saturday.

Check back every Monday at BuckeyeSports.com for a brief preview of the Buckeyes' upcoming opponent, with stories and features throughout the week.

OPPONENT: Arkansas State Red Wolves

The Red Wolves, coached by second-year head man Butch Jones (formerly of Cincinnati and Tennessee) are coming off a 2-10 season in which they allowed 38.6 points per game and 506.0 yards per game.

The offense put up a respectable 397.2 yards per game behind quarterbacks James Blackman and Layne Hatcher, who split time under center for the Red Wolves. Blackman is back this year after Hatcher transferred to Texas State and will be joined on the offense by running backs Johnnie Lang and Brian Snead, formerly of Ohio State.

Arkansas State is located in Jonesboro, Ark., and has an enrollment of 9,350 students. When playing at home, the Red Wolves take the field at Centennial Bank Stadium with a capacity of 30,964.

GAME INFO: Ohio Stadium, 12 p.m. ET, Big Ten Network

SERIES HISTORY: This is the first-ever meeting between Ohio State and Arkansas State. The Buckeyes have a 2-0 record against teams from the Sun Belt (or 3-0, counting the vacated win in 2010

against Marshall):

Team	Date	Result	Location
Marshall	Sept. 11, 2004	W, 24-21	Columbus
Troy	Sept. 20, 2008	W, 28-10	Columbus

QUICK QUOTES

- **Arkansas State quarterback James Blackman on his message to the young members of the team about playing at Ohio Stadium:** “Don’t be too overwhelmed. They put their pads on just like us. The ball still has to be kicked off. We put in the work. They put in the work. Just don’t get too overwhelmed by the crowd, the environment you’re in — embrace it. You should want to be in that type of environment.”

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Broadcast/Result
Sept. 3	Notre Dame	Columbus, Ohio	W, 21-10
Sept. 10	Arkansas State	Columbus, Ohio	12 p.m., BTN
Sept. 17	Toledo	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m., FOX
Sept. 24	Wisconsin	Columbus, Ohio	Time TBA, ABC
Oct. 1	Rutgers	Columbus, Ohio	3:30 p.m., TBA
Oct. 8	at Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	TBA
Oct. 22	Iowa	Columbus, Ohio	TBA
Oct. 29	at Penn State	University Park, Pa.	TBA
Nov. 5	at Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.	TBA
Nov. 12	Indiana	Columbus, Ohio	TBA
Nov. 19	at Maryland	College Park, Md.	TBA
Nov. 26	Michigan	Columbus, Ohio	12 p.m., FOX
Dec. 3	Big Ten Championship Game	Indianapolis, Ind.	8 p.m., FOX