

OKLAHOMA STATE 56, HOUSTON 37

WEST END ZONE OPENED

Fans, Pickens praise new look

STATISTICS

	Houston	OSU
First downs	28	28
by rushing	7	16
by passing	21	12
by penalty	0	0
Rushing yards	96	379
Passing yards	387	320
Passing	35-62-0	14-21-2
Offensive plays	84	72
Total yards	483	699
Avg. per play	5.8	9.7
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties-Yds	5-35	6-65
Punts-Avg.	5-46.2	1-34.0
Punt returns-Yds	0-0	3-75
Kickoff returns-Yds	8-178	6-94
Interceptions-Yds	2-71	0-0
Fumble returns-Yds	0-0	0-0
Possession time	26:33	33:27
3rd downs	7-15	10-13
4th downs	1-1	1-1
Sacks by-Yds	1-11	0-0

HOUSTON

RUSHING	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
C.Keenum	9	81	0	21
B.Beall	4	28	1	21
A.Kohn	8	0	0	6
Team	22	96	1	21

PASSING	C-A	Yds	Int	TD
C.Keenum	35-61	387	0	4
B.Joseph	1-0	0	0	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
P.Edwards	8	106	0	27
M.Hafner	8	79	1	21
A.Kohn	5	57	0	16
T.Carrier	5	38	2	12
T.Monroe	3	42	0	20
Y.Castile	3	32	1	18
B.Beall	1	16	0	16
W.Scourten	1	13	0	13

KICKING	Conv	FG	Punts
B.Bell	4-4	1-27	0
C.Turner	0	0	5-231

RETURNS	Punt	KO	Int	Fum
P.Edwards	0-0	8-178	0-0	0-0
B.Brinkley	0-0	0-0	1-0	0-0
E.Miller	0-0	0-0	1-71	0-0

TACKLES	Solo	Ass.	Total	TFL	Sacks
M.Nicholson	8	3	11	1	0
B.Brinkley	6	0	6	0	0
S.James	6	1	7	0	0
Q.Williams	5	0	5	0	0

OKLAHOMA STATE

RUSHING	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
K.Hunter	22	210	0	58
K.Toston	8	78	2	28
B.Johnson	10	66	0	38
Z.Robinson	10	27	0	17
Team	1	-2	0	0

PASSING	C-A	Yds	Int	TD
Z.Robinson	14-21	320	2	3

RECEIVING	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
D.Bryant	9	236	3	74
B.Pettigrew	4	66	0	22
K.Hunter	1	18	0	18

KICKING	Conv	FG	Punts
M.Fodge	0-0	0-0	1-34
D.Bailey	7-7	0-0	0-0

RETURNS	Punt	KO	Int	Fum
D.Bryant	3-75	0-0	0-0	0-0
P.Cox	0-0	3-65	0-0	0-0
J.Lacey	0-0	1-13	0-0	0-0
J.Mosley	0-0	1-9	0-0	0-0

TACKLES	Solo	Ass.	Total	TFL	Sacks
P.Lavine	6	3	9	0	0
R.Price	6	1	7	0	0
A.Sexton	5	2	7	0	0
Q.Moore	4	2	6	0	0

2008 SCHEDULE

Aug. 30: vs. Wash. St.	W, 39-13
Sept. 6: Houston	W, 56-37
Sept. 13: Missouri State	6 p.m.
Sept. 27: Troy	6 p.m.
Oct. 4: Texas A&M	TBA
Oct. 11: at Missouri	TBA
Oct. 18: Baylor	TBA
Oct. 25: at Texas	TBA
Nov. 1: Iowa State	TBA
Nov. 8: at Texas Tech	TBA
Nov. 15: at Colorado	TBA
Nov. 29: Oklahoma	TBA

"It definitely makes it easy on me."

Zac Robinson
On Dez Bryant and Kendall Hunter

BY MATT DOYLE

World Sports Writer

STILLWATER — Tanner Sebring will remember the historical significance of Saturday night.

The 8-year-old Newcastle resident was taking in a first-of-its-kind view of an Oklahoma State home football game. Seated in section 317, row 22, seat 2, the young Sebring was among the first fans in place in the newly renovated west end zone of Boone Pickens Stadium.

"This is his first OSU game and I hope he remembers it," said Tanner's grandfather, Jerry Sebring, who was seated next to him. "Maybe 50 years from now, he can take his son and grandson to a game here."

Jerry Sebring has great perspective of the evolution of OSU's football facility.

He played tight end for Cliff Speegle's OSU teams in 1961 and 1962.

Sebring recalled how then-Lewis Field consisted only of big grandstands on both the north and south sides.

Taking in the sight Saturday was something to behold, in his estimation.

"Impressive," Sebring said. "Even being in the end zone, you can still see the whole field."

As kickoff time approached, the Sebrings were surrounded by a sea of orange-clad Cowboy fans.

Almost all of the new 15,000 seats



Oklahoma State players take the field from the east side of renovated Boone Pickens Stadium. STEPHEN HOLMAN/Tulsa World

were occupied. Jacob Rutter is one of those who took advantage of the season ticket package offered for the west end zone. The Pawhuska resident graduated from OSU last spring and said the offer was too good to pass up.

"It's a great reason to draw people here now," Rutter said. "This is something to be proud of."

The person whom the stadium is named after is certainly proud. Pickens said the entire stadium exceeds even what he envisioned years ago.

"Oh, yes, it does," Pickens said before the game. "Every time I walk in here, it's just overwhelming to me."

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Dez Bryant stiff-arms Stephen James en route to a 74-yard touchdown catch. Bryant had 236 yards receiving. STEPHEN HOLMAN/Tulsa World

Dynamic sophomores form 200 club

BY MATT DOYLE

World Sports Writer

STILLWATER — Pick your poison.

Or in the eyes of Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy, pick your preferred playmaker. Gundy couldn't go wrong calling a play for either Kendall Hunter or Dez Bryant. The two sophomore playmakers could not be contained in OSU's 56-37 win over Houston.

Saturday night marked the first time in school history OSU had a 200-yard rusher and receiver in the same game. Bryant caught nine passes for a career-high 236 yards and three touchdowns.

Hunter was just as effective running the ball. The running back set his career-high with 210 yards rushing on 22 carries and added two TDs.

"That's good," Gundy said. Then the OSU coach changed his opinion.

"That's great." It was a great performance. The options Hunter and Bryant provide the OSU offense are lethal to any defense.

"It feels good to always hand the ball off or throw a screen (pass) and see them go down the sidelines for 50-plus yards," OSU quarterback Zac Robinson said. "It definitely makes it easy on me."

The pair did not make it easy on Houston's defense. When you add Hunter's 18-yard reception, the two Cowboys combined for 464 of OSU's 699 yards of offense.

And it makes it frightening for future OSU opponents to realize Bryant and Hunter have just 15 games of college experience each.

"They're just learning the offense," co-offensive coordinator Gunter Brewer said. "You're seeing some maturity out of them now because they played last year as true freshmen. Just think what they'll be like as seniors or juniors."

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NOTEBOOK

Banged up: After getting through the season opener against Washington State with no significant injuries, Oklahoma State was not as fortunate in Saturday night's home opener against Houston.

Lucien Antoine limped off the field after the opening kickoff with a left knee injury. OSU coach Mike Gundy said after the game that Antoine sustained a torn anterior cruciate ligament and will be lost for the season.

The loss of Antoine hurt particularly on defense. The junior-college transfer starts in OSU's five defensive back alignment. Senior T.J. Bell replaced Antoine in that defensive set for the Cowboys.

Antoine was not the only Cowboy player to leave the game with an injury.

Sophomore wide receiver Artrell Woods suffered an undisclosed injury to his left leg in the first quarter. Woods was run into by running back Kendall Hunter as the OSU back was finishing a 23-yard run.

Senior defensive tackle Jeray Chatham hurt his right leg late in the first quarter and walked off the field under his own power. But Chatham did not return to action the rest of the game.

Back in the saddle: Sophomore wide receiver Damian Davis started Saturday's game. Davis was suspended for the Washington State game because of a violation of team rules.

Welcome back: Houston reserve strong safety Stephen James was back where his college career started. James played his first two collegiate seasons at OSU in 2004 and 2005. James started the first six games at strong safety of OSU's 2005 season before he was sidelined the remainder with a foot injury.

James transferred to Houston after the 2005 season. After sitting out 2006 because of the transfer, James missed all of 2007 with a knee injury.

Personal records set: Kendall Hunter's 58-yard touchdown run in the first quarter was the longest of his career. Dez Bryant's 74-yard touchdown reception from Zac Robinson in the third quarter was his career long. Robinson's throw to Bryant was 1 yard shy of matching the longest completion of his OSU career.

Change of captains: OSU has changed its method for selecting captains this season. In Mike Gundy's first three seasons, the team chose one captain from each of the offensive, defensive and special teams units at the start of the season. This year, the Cowboys will have different captains for each game. They will select permanent captains before the final regular season game against Oklahoma.

Captains for Saturday's game were Chatham, Hunter, Matt Fodge and Taylor Sokolosky.

By Matt Doyle, World sports writer

REPORT CARD

Offense: A

In spite of three first-half turnovers (each led to a Houston score), the Cowboy offense had 699 total yards. OSU scored the most points in a home opener since 1974. Wide receiver Dez Bryant had nine catches for 236 yards and three TDs. Running back Kendall Hunter had 210 rushing yards and two TDs.

Defense: C

Houston finished with nearly 500 total yards. OSU occasionally pressured Cougar QB Case Keenum (35-of-61 passing for 387 yards) but never sacked him.

Special teams: A-

For the second consecutive game, the Cowboys scored on a return. Against Washington State a week earlier, Perrish Cox broke a 90-yard kickoff return. Against Houston, Dez Bryant scored on a 71-yard punt return.

By Bill Haisten, World sports writer

HOW THEY SCORED

Houston	7	9	7	14	—	37
OSU	7	7	28	14	—	56

Attendance: 45,001.

FIRST QUARTER

OSU 7, Houston 0

How: Kendall Hunter 58-yard run (Dan Bailey kick), 13:22.

Drive: 80 yards in 3 plays, 1:38.

The key: Playing in a hurry-up mode, the Cowboys quick-snapped the football before the Houston defense seemed ready for play, and Hunter popped the longest run of his career.

Breakdown: On a big night for the Cowboy program, Hunter electrifies the crowd with a home-run play.

Houston 7, OSU 7

How: Bryce Beall 2-yard run (Ben Bell kick), 5:36.

Drive: 80 yards in 10 plays, 3:54.

The key: Cougar QB Case Keenum completed five passes for 62 yards, and he had an 11-yard scramble to the OSU 19.

Breakdown: Houston capitalizes on a Cowboy turnover. As OSU drives for a potential 14-0 lead, Cougar cornerback Brandon Brinkley intercepts a Zac Robinson pass in the end zone. Houston then marches 80 yards for the tying TD.

SECOND QUARTER

Houston 10, OSU 7

How: Bell 27-yard field goal, 11:45.

Drive: 43 yards in 10 plays, 3:10.

The key: On third-and-7 from the 50, Keenum scrambled for 16 yards. On third-and-11 from the Cowboy 35, Keenum connected with Patrick Edwards for 18 yards, fumbled, and was recovered by Mark Hafner at the OSU 17 for a first down.

Breakdown: A second OSU turnover (a fumbled Robinson-Hunter exchange) leads to the Cougar field goal. For the first time this season, the Cowboys trail.

Houston 16, OSU 7

How: Mark Hafner 6-yard pass from Case Keenum (kick failed), 5:41.

Drive: 10 yards in 2 plays, :40.

The key: Safety Ernest Miller's 71-yard interception return gave the Cougars a short-field possession.

Breakdown: Following each of three Oklahoma State turnovers, Houston capitalizes with a score.

Houston 16, OSU 14

How: Dez Bryant 39-yard pass from Zac Robinson (Bailey kick), 1:19.

Drive: 80 yards in 8 plays, 4:18.

The key: Keith Toston had runs of 12 and 15 yards.

Breakdown: Their passing game is erratic (two interceptions), but the Cowboys are averaging better than 7 yards per rush attempt.

THIRD QUARTER

OSU 21, Houston 16

How: Keith Toston 28-yard run (Bailey kick), 13:25.

Drive: 75 yards in 4 plays, 1:35.

The key: After collecting an option pitch, Hunter bolted 35 yards.

Breakdown: Why even pass the football? At this point in the game, the Cowboys have rushed for 229 yards (9.5 per attempt).

OSU 28, Houston 16

How: Bryant 29-yard pass from Robinson (Bailey kick), 11:46.

Drive: 31 yards in 3 plays, 1:39.

The key: OSU defensive tackle Swanson Miller forced Andre Kohn to fumble, and Cowboy linebacker Orie Lemon recovered at the Houston 31.

Breakdown: Houston cornerback Quinte Williams may have nightmares about Dez Bryant. The big wideout has beaten Williams on receptions of 41 yards, 39 yards (TD) and 29 yards (TD).

OSU 35, Houston 16

How: Bryant 74-yard pass from Robinson (Bailey kick), 8:47.

Drive: 86 yards in 3 plays, 1:13.

The key: Robinson rifled a quick throw to Bryant, who made the catch at the line of scrimmage and raced down the Cowboy sideline. The big play was made possible when OSU wideout Damian Davis executed two blocks (one near the line of

scrimmage and one 10 yards downfield).

Breakdown: Bryant is dominating the game. At the midway mark of the third period, he has eight catches for 199 yards and three TDs.

OSU 35, Houston 23

How: Tyron Carrier 9-yard pass from Keenum (Bell kick), 6:03.

Drive: 90 yards in 8 plays, 2:44.

The key: Hafner's 21-yard reception was followed by Beall's 16-yard catch.

Breakdown: With an apparent left-leg injury, Swanson Miller is helped off the field. He's the fourth OSU defender hurt in the game.

OSU 42, Houston 23

How: Hunter 10-yard run (Bailey kick), :40.

Drive: 82 yards in 10 plays, 5:23.

The key: On fourth-and-2 from the Cougar 18, Toston gained 9 yards on an option play.

Breakdown: Hunter now has 202 rushing yards on 20 attempts, and OSU has 581 total yards.

FOURTH QUARTER

OSU 42, Houston 30

How: L.J. Castile 7-yard pass from Keenum (Bell kick), 12:20.