

Well Mountaineers it was a bad if not brutal day in Athen Ohio this past Saturday as our WVU Mountaineers lost to a group of 5 program for the first time since East Carolina in 2014 and the first time a MAC program has ever defeated WVU in football. No disrespect to the Ohio Bobcats who have won 10 games each of the last three seasons but WVU had no business losing to them. We will all see how far WVU is from where Rich Rodriguez wants to take them after Ohio State blows out the Bobcats by 30-50 points this Saturday in Columbus.

What made this loss as bad as it could be was that the WVU offense was absolutely a no show in the game, particularly in the 2nd half where there was a stretch when the Mountaineer defense, who played well enough to win, intercepted the Bobcats talented senior quarterback Parker Navarro on 3 consecutive possessions and the Mountaineer offense actually lost yards in those 3 turnovers gifted to them by the WVU defense. The WVU offense totaled only 250 yards of offense 178 passing and 72 rushing. The ugly part of those numbers is that after Jahiem Whites 43 yard 1st quarter touchdown run the WVU offense could muster only 29 rushing yards on 27 carries simply awful. Now I will say that when you lose your top offensive player in tailback Jahiem White for the season due to an injury that resulted from a cheap shot by a Bobcat defender and have to figure things out in the heat of battle during a game on the road it was certainly tough. To make matters worse the WVU offense also lost senior wideout Jadon Bray for the season due to injury in the same game. An absolute nightmare experience.

As I stated earlier the Mountaineer defense played well enough to win and attempted to set up the Mountaineer offense for a comeback with the before mentioned 3 consecutive interceptions in a one score game and we couldn't do anything with it. In fact the WVU defense gave the offense an entire half to comeback and score a single touchdown to tie the game and they couldn't do it. In the 6 possessions the Bobcat offense had in the 2nd half these were the results. Interception, Interception, Interception, Punt, Punt and turn over on downs. Pretty good in game adjustment by defensive coordinator Zac Alley but it was not enough. On the surface to call a 17-10 loss a disaster or a brutal loss kind of sounds silly but its just the way the game played out being dominated up front by a MAC school is simply unacceptable.

As for this game it started out fine with the Mountaineers jumping out to a 7-0 lead on the before mentioned 43 yard touchdown run by Jahiem White on their 2nd possession of the game. After allowing a Bobcat field goal to cut the lead to 7-3 Ohio jumped in front with a pair of touchdowns late in the 2nd quarter a one yard run by senior tailback Sieh Bangura and a 31 yard touchdown pass from quarterback Parker Navarro to junior receiver Chase Hendricks and it was suddenly 17-7 and looking kind of bleak. All WVU could add, in fact the only points by either team in the second half was a 38 yard field goal by Mountaineer senior kicker Kade Hensley. Like most of Mountaineer Nation I was surprised by the outcome but it is what it is.

Now the question is where do we find the offense to compete against a Power Four rival in Pittsburg. Not that the Panthers are expected to do anything but if Rich Rod doesn't find a quarterback who can run his system it could be a long year as I don't believe Nicco Marchiel can do it. And as we all know about Rich Rod he won't adapt his offense to the players he has instead he will just keep running the system until somebody figures it out.