

# **Bear Hunt**

**Mountaineers Outlast Bears in 2 Double Overtime 27-21**

**WVU Offense overcomes 1st half mistakes in victory  
Mountaineer Defensive Line dominates with 6 sacks**

**Next up: Kansas vs WVU October 17th at Noon in Morgantown**

**Well Mountaineers West Virginia survived a very ugly first half offensive performance but did just enough in the 2nd half, particularly in the two overtimes, to come away with a tough hard-fought victory over the Baylor Bears in Morgantown this past Saturday afternoon. The Mountaineer defense was stellar throughout the entire game holding the Bears to an astounding 27 yards rushing on 33 attempts for a .08 per rush average. The vaunted Mountaineer defensive line led by the Stills brothers also produced 6 sacks of Baylor Senior quarterback Charley Brewer and pressured him into two interceptions. An outstanding performance.**

**Throughout the game the Mountaineer defense continually bailed out the struggling Mountaineer offense which basically stumbled through 3 quarters of this game. After a beautiful opening 15 play 70-yard drive capped off by a one-yard Jarrett Doege touchdown run I thought the Mountaineers were in focus and were going to have a big game offensively but unfortunately for the remainder of the 1st half the mountaineer offense had the ball 6 more times and this was the outcome.**

**Fumble, Punt, Interception, Interception, Punt and Punt.**

Not very pretty was it, in fact it was very hard to watch as the longest of those 6 drives to nowhere was a 6 play 26-yard drive. The 3 turnovers were all attributed to quarterback Jarrett Doege who lost a fumble on a pump fake and tossed two interceptions. The first pick was just one of those plays where Baylor Junior Linebacker Terrell Bernard made an outstanding play on a tipped pass but the 2nd interception on the 5th drive was just a brutal and costly mistake as Doege overthrow 2 Mountaineer receivers directly to Baylor Junior Safety J.T. Woods which he returned 28 yards to the Mountaineer 30 yard line and 5 plays later Charley Brewer found Junior wideout R.J.Sneed for a 7 yard touchdown pass and we went into the break at 7-7

After the first 5 possessions of the second half produced 5 punts, 3 for the Bears and 2 for the Mountaineers, WVU would finally put together an 11 play 72-yard drive and claim a 14-7 lead on a Leddie Brown one-yard touchdown run with 1:37 to go in the 3rd quarter. On the ensuing possession Bears QB Brewer tossed an interception to Mountaineer Junior cornerback Dreshun Miller and he returned it 11 yards to the WVU 32-yard line but the EERs offense could muster only 7 yards on three plays and had to yet again punt the football. The Mountaineers would have 8 drives end in punts and 3 more in turnovers in the game.

The biggest series of this game would take place after a fumbled punt by Mountaineer Sophomore Wideout Brice Ford-Wheaton at the West Virginia 27-yard line with 7:37 to go in the 4th quarter but in the ensuing series the Mountaineer defense found a way to keep the Bears off the board, perhaps with a little help from the officials. Taking over at the WVU 27 Baylor moved the ball to the Mountaineer 3-yard line where on 4th and goal the Bears backup quarterback Gary Bohanon was stopped short of the goal line and the Mountaineers took over at their own 1-yard line. In fairness I felt there was no way that the call would not be overturned as it certainly appeared that Bohanon had broken the plane of the goal, at least it appeared that half of his body was across the goal but the call stood and WVU dodge a bullet clinging to a 14-7 lead

After taking over at the one the Mountaineers were at least able to get the football to the 10-yard line so they had room for a 41-yard Tyler Sumpter punt and the Bears would take over at their own 41-yard line with 2:11 to go in the game. The way the Mountaineer defense had play to this point I was pretty certain they would close out this game and we would all be celebrating a 14-7 victory and they most likely would have but after two Charley Brewer incompletions on 3rd and 10 and the Baylor 41 WVU Senior Linebacker Tony Fields II was flagged for unnecessary roughness and the Bears were in business 1st and 10 at the WVU 44 yard line with 1:37 to go in regulation. A penalty like

that by a senior at a critical point in the game when you essentially had Baylor stopped had to be very disappointing for coach Neal Brown especially when just two plays later Charley Brewer hit Josh Fleeks with a 34-yard touchdown and with under a minute to go in the game we were tied at 14-14.

## **OVERTIME!!**

You know I really enjoy the College Football overtime format where both teams get a shot from the 25 yard line as it really is exciting because if you have a decent kicker you start out in scoring range, however overtime has not exactly worked out well for WVU as I believe they had lost 4 of the last 5 times they went into overtime but this game would be strikingly different as the Sleeping WVU offense woke up to score touchdowns in both overtime series. The Mountaineers had the ball first in the first OT and on 4th and 1 at the Baylor 16 yard line Jarrett Doege hit Sophomore Tight End Mike O'Laughlin with a 10 yard pass to the Bears 6 yard line and on the next play Doege hit Brice Ford-Wheaton for a 6 yard TD and it was 21-14 EERs, However it only took one play for the Bears to tie the game at 21-21 on a 25 yard TD pass to Sophomore Tight End Ben Sims. In the 2nd OT Baylor had the ball first and on their first play Brewer was hit as he threw the ball and Mountaineer defender Tykee Smith made an outstanding interception in the endzone and WVU only needed a field goal to win the game.

As we all thought WVU would run the football until they were stopped and then kick the game winning field goal but Doege completed a safe 8-yard screen pass to Tight End O'Laughlin to the Baylor 17 and 3 Leddie Brown runs later he was in the endzone from 3 yards out and WVU had a very much appreciated 27-21 victory over the Bears

I was disappointed that Leddie Brown didn't get his 3rd consecutive 100-yard game falling just short at 93 yards on 27 carries and 2 touchdowns. Despite the 1st half offensive woes Jarrett Doege ended up completing 30 of 42 attempts for 211 yards and 1 touchdown. He did have those two 1st half interceptions and a fumble but he kept his poise in the 2nd half and they did enough to pull out this very important victory.

It was not pretty but a win in Big 12 Play against one of the better teams is a big win. So now WVU will have an off week to prepare for the Kansas Jayhawks who come to town on October 17th for a noon kickoff on FOX Sports One.