

## Dixie State Beats Azusa Pacific

SAINT GEORGE, Utah (Oct. 17) – Dixie State defeated Azusa Pacific 33-23 at Hansen Stadium in front of a crowd of 2,413 Saturday winning back-to-back games for the first time since moving up from the junior college ranks.

The Red Storm (4-4) took its first possession of the game 89 yards on nine plays for a touchdown. Judd Thompson found Robert Evans on a third and seven for a 14-yard touchdown pass to put the Red Storm on top 7-0. The drive featured several pass plays to RB Adam Wells and a 43-yard scamper from RB Tauni Vakapuna.

The first half was dominated by the Red Storm. Following the opening drive, kicker Mike Langston added field goals from 24 and 37 yards, building the Red Storm lead up 13-0.

DSC took over on their own 35-yard line with four minutes remaining in the second quarter. Thompson led the Red Storm down the field on two long pass completions, one to Wells for 48 yards and another to Nash Fowler for 31 yards. The two completions would set up a one-yard TD run for Sione Tapuosi to cap a four-play 78-yard drive.

The Dixie State defense dominated the first half play allowing 23 yards rushing and 12 yards passing.

Dixie State added another TD with 3:44 left in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Thompson found Wells for a 20-yard TD pass in the back of the end zone, building the lead to 27-0.

The game looked to be a blow out, but the Cougars were not going to away easy. One of the bright spots on the day for APU was the return play of Jerimiah Andujo, he collected a punt return of 43 yards and a kick return for 80 yards. Both plays would set up Azusa Pacific touchdowns.

Dixie State added 40 and 36-yard field goal from Langston to build their lead to 33-23. The Red Storm offense gained 464 yards of total offense, 344 yards passing and 120 yards rushing.

Thompson completed 19 of 38 passes for 344 yards. Wells collected seven catches for 118 yards and TD. Evans had four grabs for 78 yards and a TD and Vakapuna, who rushed for 111 yard to earn his second straight 100-yard game, had three for 75 yards.

The Red Storm defense was led by the play of Nick Cragin (13 tackles, .5 sack), Keaunteu Bankhead (7 tackles), and Nick Rocco (6 tackles, 1.5 sacks). They helped to hold APU to 97 yards rushing and 110 yards passing.