

RUSH

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

WKU came into Saturday 2-1 in league play and riding its first two-game win streak since 2008 after road wins over Middle Tennessee State and Florida Atlantic.

It was WKU's fourth road win in five games dating back to last season.

Despite the road success, the Toppers still hadn't broken through in front of their home fans.

"To get all those wins on the road, it's just not the same feeling," senior left tackle Wes Jeffries said. "When we get a win at home, it's just a different feeling."

The Toppers did just that Saturday by excelling in a part of that game that had tripped them up in the past—the fourth quarter.

WKU had blown fourth quarter leads in several of those 18 straight losses.

The last frame of Saturday's game began when ULL tight end Ladarius Green caught a touchdown

to cut a 28-17 Topper lead to 28-23.

But that's where Ragin' Cajuns' comeback hopes ended.

WKU drove 54 yards in six plays on its next drive before sophomore fullback Kadeem Jones went in from one yard out to give the Toppers a 35-23 lead.

ULL made it all the way to the WKU 16 on its next possession, but the drive fizzled when quarterback Blaine Gautier couldn't find wide receiver Javone Lawson on a fourth and six throw.

The Ragin' Cajuns got the ball back with 5:00 left and once again came away empty.

This time it was senior cornererback Derrius Brooks who ended up with the ball in off Lawson's hands after the ULL wideout was hit by senior safety Ryan Beard.

It was the Toppers' only interception of the day, and it ended any realistic visions the Ragin' Cajuns had of winning.

"I don't even know it happened," sophomore cor-

nerback Tyree Robinson said Monday. "Derrius Brooks just turned around with the ball in his hands... It was like a magic trick."

Consecutive 56- and 24-yard runs from senior running back Bobby Rainey gave WKU its final 42-23 margin of victory.

With the win, WKU stands at third in the Sun Belt standings with a 3-1 record, one game behind league leader Arkansas State and now just a half game behind ULL.

The Ragin' Cajuns had been undefeated in Sun Belt play and riding a six-game winning streak before Saturday.

Taggart said the Toppers' win over the Ragin' Cajuns was important not just from the perspective of ending their long home losing streak, but for staying near the top of the Sun Belt standings.

"In order to be the man, you've got to beat the man," Taggart said. "At this time, Lafayette was the man, and we did that."

and pay off a little bit."

◆ Big production from WKU tight ends

Taggart has expressed his love in the past for tight ends, especially the versatile role they can play in his West Coast-influenced system.

Saturday, junior Jack Doyle, sophomore Jim Murphree and freshman Mitchell Henry all caught at least one pass from the position, while junior Ryan Wallace also saw playing time.

Doyle led the Toppers in receiving, catching seven balls for 106 yards.

Henry, a former Elizabethtown High School standout, also had a memorable day, hauling in his first career reception and first career touchdown.

"They're like receivers to me, just a bit bigger and stockier," Jakes said. "Jack catches everything and Mitch, he has hands as good as Jack. They're just playmakers."

NOTES

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

But he said the pain may have actually helped his performance by making him less able to tuck and run, therefore increasing his patience.

"I wasn't looking to run the ball. I was actually looking for a man down the field as I was trying to scramble," Jakes said. "So it did help

Stadium seekers



COOPER BURTON/HERALD

Football enthusiasts Al Botta and Jarrett Singer visited WKU's Homecoming game against Louisiana-Lafayette at Smith Stadium on Saturday as part of their mission to attend a football game at every Football Bowl Subdivision stadium in the nation. They write up each stadium on their website, collegefootballquest.com.

SPORTS BRIEF

WKU soccer has 1-1 weekend as season nears end

Troy, which had lost five of its last six games, on Thursday handed WKU its second home loss this season, 1-0.

Despite outshooting Troy 17-6 in the game, WKU couldn't convert on its chances and ended its six-match winning streak.

The Trojans found the back of the net early, scoring in the eleventh minute and holding that lead for the rest of the game.

"We started the game OK, and they scored, and we panicked and played really tight the rest of the half," Head Coach Jason Neidell said.

WKU switched formations in the first half, hoping to open up more space in the midfield. Neidell switched back at halftime, but to no avail.

"It was just one of those nights where nothing will go in. The goalkeeper made some saves and kept us off the board," Neidell said.

Sunday the team traveled to Mobile, Ala., and

rebounded from Thursday's loss with a 1-0 win over South Alabama.

Neidell said "The Cage," South Alabama's home field, has always been a difficult place to play.

In the 80th minute, freshman midfielder Allie Auscherman scored her first career goal.

WKU (11-6-1, 6-3-1 Sun Belt Conference) has just one regular season game left — a home match at 6 p.m. Friday against Middle Tennessee State.

— Austin Lanter

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DINNER IN THE DARK

Sustainability Day | October 26

Vegetarian Soup
Broccoli Chowder
Vegetable Lasagna
Steamed Broccoli
BBQ Chicken
Sweet Potato Fries

Carrots
Mushroom & Barley Ragout
Roasted Vegetable Wrap
Italian Knots
Pasta Primavera Salad
Gemelli with Sweet Sausage