

# ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

SEC - West Division



## Hogs Will Run Wild Again in 2023

Sam Pittman has orchestrated an impressive and rapid turnaround of the Arkansas program. After Bret Bielema was fired after a 4-8 season in 2017, Chad Morris came in but went just 4-20 in two seasons before he was let go. Pittman had the unenviable job of starting a rebuild during the covid season and the Razorbacks unsurprisingly 3-7 although they did show a glimpse of what was to come in a 21-14 victory over then #16 Mississippi State. In 2021, Arkansas was one of the biggest surprises in all of college football and finished with a remarkable 9-4 record with two of those losses coming to the two teams who were the representatives in both the SEC title game and the CFP National Championship, Alabama and Georgia. Last season the defense suffered some regression with only four returning starters but the Razorbacks still found a way to get to a bowl game and used a big victory against #14 Mississippi to get to six wins. They won their second straight bowl game for the first time since 2014-2015 with a victory over Kansas in the Liberty Bowl.

While Pittman's teams have 16 combined wins the last two years, they have yet to make a true statement win against the conference's very best teams. Last year's win over Lane Kiffin and the Rebels was probably the closest Arkansas has been to a marquee win and they did beat #7 Texas A&M in 2021 but the Aggies finished the season 8-4. They came ever so close to knocking off LSU in a fierce 13-10 battle even with an injured **KJ Jefferson** looking on from the sidelines. Could this be the year that the Razorbacks shock the likes of Alabama or LSU? If so, they'll have to go on the road to do it.

Jefferson is a monster of a quarterback and runs through defenses like a battering ram. There's shades of Tim Tebow in his game with his physicality as a quarterback but he also possesses a cannon of an arm and has 45 touchdowns to just nine interceptions the past two seasons. He was banged up with injury a couple of times but what excellent when healthy and finished the season with 2,648 yards and 24. Touchdowns and he was team's second leading rusher with 640 yards. The good news is that Jefferson is very talented and experienced as he heads into his third season as the starter. The bad news is that nearly the entire wide receiver room is gone from last season.

Matt Landers and Jadon Haselwood accounted for over half of the team's receiving yards and running back **Raheim Sanders** is now the leading returner with his 28 catches for 271 yards last season. This year, the Razorbacks will be reliant on young receivers like **Jaedon Wilson** and **Isaiah Sategna** to fill major roles. Both **Isaac TeSlaa** and **Andrew Armstrong** make the leap from Division II to the SEC. **Bryce Stephens** caught nine passes for 109 yards last season. There's certainly talent on this unit but it's extremely unproven and may be a work in progress.

While the passing game could be down a notch or two, the Razorbacks bring back almost every key component from last year's sensational running game. Jefferson is obviously a running threat in his own right but Raheim "Rocket" Sanders is one of the best running backs in the country. He ran for 1,443 yards and 10 touchdowns and figures to be one of the top NFL eligible running backs. **AJ Green** added 414 yards and **Rashod Dubinion** ran for 293 more. **Dominique Johnson** is attempting a comeback after two torn ACLs. The offensive line returns only two starters including second team All-SEC center **Beau Limmer** but Pittman brought in **Josh Braun** from Florida and **Brady Latham** has 36 career starts for the Razorbacks.

The defense fell from just 22.9 points allowed in 2021 to 30.6 last season. Several key contributors were gone in 2022 and the injury bug bit hard when Jalen Catalon was injured and out for the season in the opener against Cincinnati. The Razorbacks are down their top three tacklers from last season and all three linebackers are gone. The bright spot on the defense is arguably cornerback **Dwight McGlothern**. The Razorbacks need his help now more than ever after allowing the most passing yards in the country last season. Pittman made several additions via the portal but it's very possible the points allowed per game mirrors 2022 more closely than it does 2021.

**The Bottom Line:** The SEC West figures to be brutal once again and the Razorbacks face most of the top contenders on the road. However, the schedule does lighten in the second half and there's a path where Arkansas could win their final five games of the season.

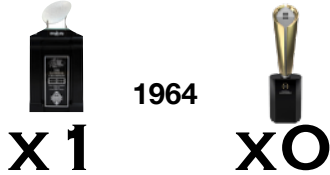
### Projection: 8-4 (5th in SEC West)

#### 2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
<b>32.5</b>	<b>236.7</b>	<b>234.7</b>	<b>0</b>
35th in FBS	7th in FBS	63rd in FBS	T-67th in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
<b>30.6</b>	<b>170.5</b>	<b>294.7</b>	
101st in FBS	94th in FBS	131st in FBS	

### ARKANSAS BIO

National Championships - 1



SEC Championships: 0

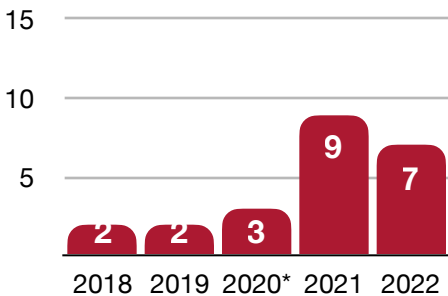
Location: **Fayetteville, AR**

All-Time Record: **703-507-37**

2022 Results: **7-6**  
**Won Liberty Bowl**













Head Coach: **Sam Pittman**  
4th Year (19-17)

### 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Reynolds Razorback Stadium (76,000)

## 2023 Arkansas Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Sat, Sept 2	 vs. W. Carolina
2	Sat, Sept 9	 vs. Kent State
3	Sat, Sept 16	 vs. BYU
4	Sat, Sept 23	 @ LSU
5	Sat, Sept 30	 vs. Texas A&M*
6	Sat, Oct 7	 @ Mississippi
7	Sat, Oct 14	 @ Alabama
8	Sat, Oct 21	 vs. Mississippi St
9	Bye Week	
10	Sat, Nov 4	 @ Florida
11	Sat, Nov 11	 vs. Auburn
12	Sat, Nov 18	 vs. Florida Intl
13	Fri, Nov 24	 vs. Missouri

Conference Games in Bold

## KEY GAMES

**Sat, Sept 30: vs. Texas A&M** - These two teams head back to "Jerryworld" (AT&T Stadium) where they have played the last nine seasons outside of 2020. The Aggies narrowly edged out a #10 Razorbacks team after Arkansas' last-second field goal attempt rang off the upright with a painful thud.

**Sat, Oct 14: @ Alabama** - The Crimson Tide have a staggering 66-2 record at home over the last ten seasons. However, the running game usually travels so could Arkansas spring a monumental upset?

**Fri, Nov 24: vs. Missouri** - The Tigers scored on each of their first four possessions and hung on to win the "Battle-Line Rivalry" and have now won six of the last seven meetings.

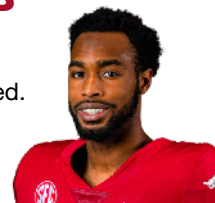
## KEY PLAYERS

### Raheim Sanders - RB



There's a reason his nickname is "Rocket". As a sophomore, Sanders tore through defenses and ran for 1,443 yards despite only a combined 13 carries in the last two games of the season. He topped 100 yards seven times and absolutely demolished #14 Mississippi with 232 yards and 3 touchdowns and he caught a season-high five passes in that contest, too. He's one of the nation's best running backs and at 225 pounds he can either run over you or past you.

### Dwight McGlothern - CB



For the most part, opposing teams bullied Arkansas in the passing game but McGlothern held up well at cornerback, all things considered. The former LSU transfer made his presence felt immediately by running an interception back 51 yards in Arkansas' narrow victory over Cincinnati in week one and he followed with an interception against South Carolina and finished with four picks total.

## 2022 RESULTS (7-6)

Cincinnati (W 31-24)

South Carolina (W 44-30)

Missouri State (W 38-27)

Texas A&M (L 21-23)

Alabama (L 26-49)

@ Mississippi State (L 17-40)

@ **BYU (W 52-35)**

@ **Auburn (W 41-27)**

Liberty (L 19-21)

LSU (L 10-13)

**Mississippi (W 42-27)**

@ Missouri (L 27-29)

**Kansas (W 55-53)**

# ARKANSAS®

## RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

# 22nd

(Via 24/7 Sports)