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WKU football

Former Arkansas QB Storey transferring to WKU

Grad transfer hopes to arrive in Bowling Green next month

By BRAD STEPHENS bstephens@bgdailynews.com 1 hr ago



Arkansas quarterback Ty Storey went home for winter break and started thinking about his future.

The Razorbacks quarterback had just endured a rough 2018 season. The team went 2-10, and he enjoyed minimal individual success.

Storey could've returned to Arkansas in 2019 as a redshirt senior, but there would've been no guarantees for playing time. Coach Chad Morris and his staff were actively courting graduate transfer quarterbacks to come in and compete for the job.

"I didn't really want to go through a whole other year like that where they were just bringing in quarterback after quarterback," Storey told the Daily News on Tuesday in a phone interview. "Knowing we weren't as successful as we thought we would be last year, I thought it might be a good time to start looking around myself.

"Thankfully, WKU called and it was just a good fit."

Storey announced Wednesday on Instagram and Twitter that he'll spend a graduate transfer season in 2019 playing quarterback for Western Kentucky. He visited campus over the weekend, where he spent time with new coach Tyson Helton and new QBs coach/offensive coordinator Bryan Ellis.

“I just felt like I really liked what they were trying to build there,” Storey said of WKU. “I feel like they’re headed in the right direction.”

The Charleston, Ark., native Storey chose his home-state school in the Class of 2015 over offers from Alabama, Auburn and Louisville. He was a four-star recruit who threw for nearly 13,000 yards in high school.

Storey saw action in a combined five games in 2016 and ’17. He then appeared in 10 games as a redshirt junior at Arkansas in 2018, starting nine.

For the season, Storey completed 143 of his 250 pass attempts (57.2 percent) for 1,584 yards with 11 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He was sacked 19 times.

The 6-foot-2, 215-pound QB Storey also finished the year with 67 carries for 146 yards and a touchdown.

Three different quarterbacks, including Storey, started games in 2018 for the Razorbacks. Arkansas scoured the market for a grad transfer that could come in and secure the job for 2019, eventually landing Southern Methodist QB Ben Hicks.

Storey informed coaches in early January that he was entering the NCAA transfer portal.

Florida Atlantic, Massachusetts, Northern Illinois and WKU were among the schools that showed interest in Storey, he said. Ellis paid Storey a visit recently, and then Storey was able to come last weekend and check out the Hilltoppers’ campus.

“I kind of narrowed it down pretty quick,” Storey said. “I didn’t want to waste anybody’s time. Feeling at home at Western, I wanted to make that move right now.”

Storey spoke with Ellis and Helton about the offensive success the Hilltoppers enjoyed earlier this decade when those two coaches were WKU assistants.

“I think what he did a good job about emphasizing to me was he really changes the offense up to who’s running the offense and who’s out there, which I think is really cool,” Storey said. “I feel like you have to be able to adapt like that.”

Storey hopes to enroll at WKU in time for a second spring-semester bi-term that begins March 18. If that happens, he'd be eligible to take the field March 19 for the Toppers' fourth of 15 spring practices.

Quarterback is a position of uncertainty for Helton and his new offensive staff heading into spring practice, which begins March 12.

Redshirt junior Steven Duncan and redshirt sophomore Davis Shanley return in 2019 after playing in nine games each last season. Redshirt freshman Kevaris Thomas appeared in three games.

Walk-ons Sean McCormack and Drake Peer join Duncan, Shanley and Thomas in WKU's quarterback room.

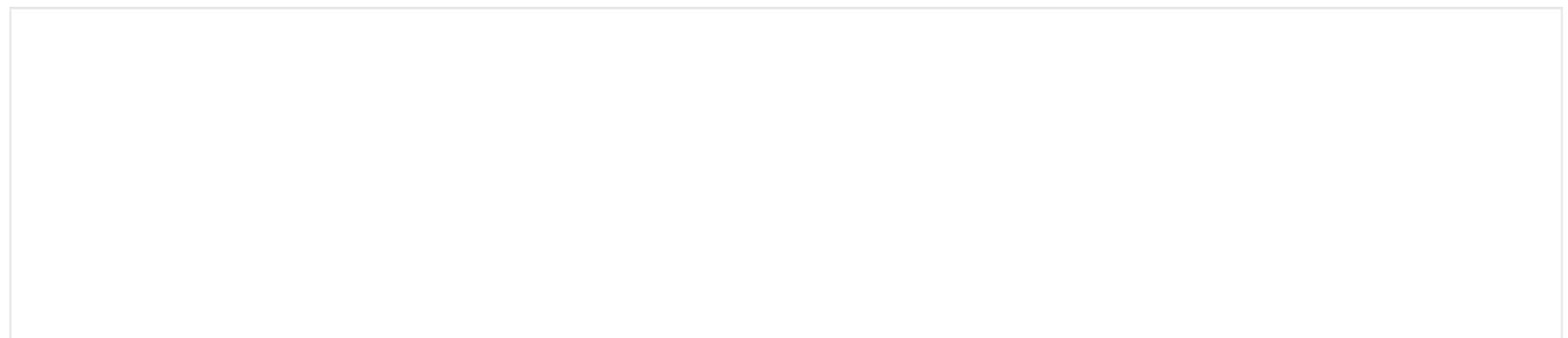
Storey will immediately be a strong candidate to win the starting job. He'll also get a chance to face his old school Nov. 9 when the Hilltoppers play a nonconference game at Arkansas.

"Hopefully getting in there and competing and just making the team as good as I can," Storey said of his goals. "Hopefully that's starting, obviously. We all want to get in and play right away.

"I know it's going to be a battle. I know there's a QB battle going on right now. But just getting in there and battling and showing them who I am. Hopefully that's enough. If it's not, just doing whatever I can to help this team be more successful." {&end}

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Hilltopper spring practices open to public, set to start March 12

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