



U.S. Air Force Academy

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Air Force Post-Game Quotes **Vs. Southern Utah (Aug. 30, 2008)**

Air Force Head Coach Troy Calhoun

“It’s always good to play a game. We had a bunch of guys playing their very first game. It was evident we need to develop and grow as a team rapidly and I think we can do that. We got pressure with four guys and we jarred the ball loose a couple of times.”

“We had a bunch of brand new faces out there. As much as you try to simulate in practice, it’s a lot harder, it’s a lot tougher and a lot more violent when you play a game.”

“I think he (Shea Smith) played solid. He did some things where there were four plays where he got the play and he looked over the sideline and checked the call. That part is what you want as a quarterback. He knows our offense well. The thing he does is make good decisions and he’s got to do that.”

“I felt like there was some good continuity when Shea was out there and with a young team I felt we needed that. It was a little bit of a gut feeling.”

Southern Utah Head Coach Ed Lamb

“Air Force looked sharp. They had their way with us and were able to do just about whatever they wanted to do with us offensively. They competed very hard as they always do and had an effort that they can be proud of. (Shea) Smith is a good competitor and pretty much throughout the game he made plays.”

“We were not as prepared as we could have been for Air Force’s option attack. I felt like that we they were in their more traditional sets with two running backs our defense had the upper hand at times so I’m pleased with that because we’ll be facing a lot more of that style of offense than the option.”

Air Force Post-Game Notes **vs. Southern Utah (Aug. 30, 2008)**

Team Notes

- Air Force is using honorary game captains again this season. Today’s honorary captains were Bart Holiday, a 1965 Academy graduate and two-year letterman that played on the 1963 Gator Bowl team, and Randy Cubero, a 1961 Academy graduate and starting guard on the undefeated 1958 Cotton Bowl team. Cubero served as the Dean of Faculty at the Academy from 1991 to 1998 and is a retired brigadier general. Air Force’s game captains for the Southern Utah game were seniors Ryan Kemp (DE), Keith Williams (OT) and Ryan Harrison (PK/P).
- Air Force improved to 32-19-2 all-time in season openers, including a 27-8 mark at home. Air Force head coach Troy Calhoun improved to 2-0 in his career in season openers.
- Air Force improved to 13-0 all-time against teams from the Football Championship Subdivision, formerly known as NCAA Division I-AA.
- The Falcons improved to 8-9 against non-conference opponents dating back to 2004. Air Force head coach Troy Calhoun improved to 4-2 against non-conference foes in his career.

- Air Force improved to 8-0 all-time in the month of August, including a 4-0 mark in games played on August 30.
- The Falcons extended their winning streak in Falcon Stadium to eight games dating back to 2007. Air Force head coach Troy Calhoun improved to 7-0 during his career in Falcon Stadium, including a 3-0 mark against non-conference opponents.
- Air Force improved to 33-35 overall as a member of the Mountain West Conference (since 1999).
- Air Force improved to 313-264-13 all-time in its 53rd year of varsity football. The Academy is 170-109-3 at home.
- Air Force recorded two safeties in a game for the first time in its history. Senior ILB **Brandon Reeves** with a tackle for loss and DE **Jake Paulson** with a quarterback sack did the honors.
- The Air Force defensive shutout Southern Utah in the first half. The first-half shutout is the first for Air Force since holding Army scoreless in West Point in 2006. In that game, AF led 43-0 at the half en route to a 43-7 victory.
- Air Force held Southern Utah to just 130 total yards which is the best defensive effort in the Troy Calhoun era (2007-present). The previous best was 160 yards vs. South Carolina State in last year's season opener. The 130 total yards is the fifth-best single-game effort in school history and best since Air Force held Army to just 100 yards in 1999. Prior to SUU's third-quarter touchdown on an 80-yard drive, the Thunderbirds had managed just 28 total yards in the first two and one-half quarters. SUU had just 50 total yards for the game outside its one scoring drive.
- Air Force's defense held Southern Utah to just seven rushing yards, which is the 14th-best single-game effort in school history. SUU averaged just 0.3 yards per carry, which is the 10th best effort in school history.
- Air Force's 433 yards rushing is the second-most in the Troy Calhoun era (2007-present) and most since the team closed last season with a 569-yard effort vs. San Diego State. Air Force's 76 carries ties as the ninth most in school history and is the most since having 79 vs. BYU in 2002.

Individual Notes

- Air Force had seven players make the first start of their career in the game. The players were QB **Shea Smith**, WR-Z **Kyle Halderman**, OC **Andrew Pipes**, TB **Kyle Lumpkin**, ILBs **Brandon Reeves** and **Ken Lamendola** and CB **Brenton Byrd-Fullbright**.
- Senior ILB **Brandon Reeves** recorded a safety in the first quarter, tackling Southern Utah's Kennie Apilli in the end zone. The safety is the first points of Reeves career and the first safety by an Air Force player since Chris Thomas vs. Army in 2006.
- Sophomore TB **Kyle Lumpkin** played the first varsity game of his career following a season on the junior varsity last year. Lumpkin finished the game with 77 yards on 19 carries for a 4.1 per-carry average.
- Senior QB **Shea Smith** made the first start of his career in the Southern Utah game. Smith scored the first touchdown of his career in the first quarter to give Air Force a 9-0 lead. Smith later tossed his first-career touchdown pass to TE **Keith Madsen** to put Air Force up 18-0 in the second quarter. Smith finished the game with a career-best 91 yards rushing. He also hit eight of 12 passes for 75 yards.
- Senior DE **Jake Paulson** recorded a safety in the second quarter, sacking SUU quarterback Cody Stone in the end zone. The safety is the first of Paulson's career. Paulson finished the game with four total tackles, 3.0 for loss, including two quarterback sacks.
- Sophomore WR-X **Kevin Fogler** made his varsity debut in the Southern Utah game. He finished the game with the first statistics of his career, catching three passes for 38 yards.
- Senior PK **Ryan Harrison** extended his consecutive field goal streak to 12 straight, hitting two field goals vs. Southern Utah. Harrison hit from 30, 42 and 32 yards. Harrison's three field goals tie a career-best and mark the second consecutive game he's hit three. Harrison kicked in Air Force's bowl game vs. California last year. The three-field goal effort is the third of his career, as he also hit three against Army last season. Harrison also had a solid day kickoff, recorded five touchbacks in six kickoffs. His only punt of the day was a 45-yarder that was downed at the six yard line and later led to an Air Force safety.
- Sophomore WR-Z **Kyle Halderman** made his varsity debut in the Southern Utah game and scored the first touchdown of his career on a 49-yard run in the third quarter to give Air Force a 28-0 lead. Halderman finished the game with 87 yards rushing on six carries for a 14.5 per-carry average.
- Sophomore ILB **Ken Lamendola** recovered the first fumble of his career in the third quarter of the Southern Utah game. The recovery led to an Air Force field goal and a 31-0 lead.

- Senior DE **Ryan Kemp** recorded the first fumble recovery of his career in the third quarter. Kemp also forced the fumble which led to an Air Force field goal and a 34-0 lead.
- Freshman WR-Z **Jonathan Warzeka** played the first game of his career and scored his first touchdown, a 14-yard run in the fourth quarter to give Air Force a 41-7 lead.