

Axers' Winning Score Was 'Instant Replay'

By **BILL NIXON**
Northern Arizona Bureau

FLAGSTAFF—It was like an "instant re-play" at Long Beach, Calif., Friday night when Northern Arizona's Jim Fuller went streaming down the sidelines in pursuit of a Lumberback pass.

Last Sept. 16 at Ogden, Utah, the pass pattern was the same against Weber State's Wildcats. Same man too. At Ogden Fuller dropped a sure touchdown aerial and the Axers lost, 29-28.

But at Long Beach Fuller gathered in Ted James' 42-yard toss and went into the end zone for the score that gave NAU a hard-earned 26-21 win over Long Beach State's 49ers.

Said Fuller, "I kept thinking of Weber State, it was just like an instant re-play. But this time I was determined I would catch it."

Determination was the byword for the Lumberjacks all night. They twice trailed by two converted touchdowns only to bounce back with a three-TD spree in the second half for their fourth straight win. The 8th ranked Axers (AP small college poll) now are 5-2 overall as they prepare this week for the Montana Grizzlies at Missoula.

Two Axer plays were nearly fatal, and came near spoiling the exciting come-from-behind finish. After NAU's third touchdown of the game the Loggers still needed the extra point to tie 21-21 with 10:35 left in the game.

But a bad snap from center nixed the conversion attempt.

James, whose three TD passes against Long Beach raised his season total to eight, found Fuller on a

fourth down—13 yards to go situation for the clincher.

But the 49ers, anxious to atone for a 32-12 walloping here a year ago, came storming back, only to have Axer co-captain Bob Smith stop the drive deep in NAU territory with 1:40 left. Long Beach used up its remaining time outs to stop the clock with 5 seconds remaining.

NAU faced fourth-down-six yards to go on its 37 when play resumed. James ran out of decision-making brainpower in the intense situation.

He simply piled into the middle. But a new rule, insti-

tuted this season, gave LB another chance. The clock automatically stops when the ball changes hands this year.

One more play for the desperate 49ers. The Axers thought it was all over, and the defensive unit barely reached a set position when Long Beach QB Dave Merrill floated a pass into the end zone. Axer safety Bruce Branstrom batted it away.

	NAU	LONG BEACH
First downs	25	19
Yards rushing	251	170
Yards passing	282	173
Return yardage	102	161
Passes	19-28-1	14-35-1
Fumbles lost	3	0
Punts and avg.	4 for 35	2 for 35
Yards penalized	85	53 1/2

NORTHERN ARIZONA	0	7	7	12-26
LONG BEACH	14	7	7	0-21

LB—Merrill run 5 (Meyers kick).
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 NAU—Fuller pass 11 from James (Campbell kick).
 LB—Waters pass 6 from Merrill (Meyers kick).
 NAU—Warner run 44 (Campbell kick).
 NAU—Campbell pass 26 from James (kick failed).
 NAU—Fuller pass 42 from James (kick failed).

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