

VOL REPORT

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OUTBACK BOWL: PENN STATE 20, TENNESSEE 10

Fumble, stumble



MICHAEL DATRICK /NEW/C CENTINEL

MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL **Penn State defensive back Tony Davis** spots the fumble by Tennessee running back Arian Foster during the fourth guarter of the Outback Bowl on Monday in Tampa. Fla. Davis returned the fumble 88 yards

In the end, Vols were simply overrated

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tennessee football season ended as it began.



ADAMS

"overrated."
Only this
time, the chant
was aimed at the
Vols, not their
opponent. And
this time, it
came from Penn
State fans, as
they counted
down the
seconds on their

for a touchdown. The Nittany Lions won, 20-10.

team's 20-10
upset victory over the 17th-ranked
Vols in the Outback Bowl on
Monday.

The first game and the last couldn't have been more different. In the season opener, UT knocked off ninth-ranked Cal to

the delight of the Neyland Stadium crowd, which shouted "overrated" at the Golden Bears.

The Vols made big plays on both sides of the ball in routing Cal 35-18. They didn't make enough big or little plays against the unranked Nittany Lions.

Last week, UT coach Phillip Fulmer said the season had been a success regardless of what happened in the bowl game. Based on last season, he's right.

Once you go 5-6 at a program with UT's tradition, even if you fall on your face, you can't help but fall forward. So compared to the 2005 season, this was a step in the right direction.

But when you compare the last third of the season to the first

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BOWL SCOREBOARD

COTTON BOWL

Auburn 17, Nebraska 14

CAPITAL ONE BOWL

Wisconsin 17, Arkansas 14

GATOR BOWL

W. Virginia 38, Georgia Tech 35

ROSE BOWL

Southern Cal 32, Michigan 18

FIESTA BOWL

Boise State vs. Oklahoma, late

MORE

- Highs and lows for Foster. **VR5**
- Receivers missed Smith. **VR5**
- Hunt was tough on defense. **VR5**
- Report Card. **VR5** Penn State drill works. **VR6**
- n to the first

ON GOVOLSXTRA

Outback Bowl slideshow.

UT its 'worst enemy' as turnovers turn into points

BY MIKE STRANGE strange2@knews.com

TAMPA, Fla. — In the world's only football stadium with a life-sized pirate ship, Penn State made Tennessee walk the plank Mon-

The Vols didn't need a shove off the end, either.

They leaped into the briny deep on their own.

"We were our own worst enemy," UT coach Phillip Fulmer proclaimed after a mistake-riddled 20-10 loss to the Nittany Lions in the Outback Bowl before an announced crowd of 65,601 at Raymond James Stadium.

The 17th-ranked Vols finished the season at 9-4 and bore little resemblance to the crisp, big-play outfit that dazzled California on opening day.

"Not only did we not score points," said offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe, "we

gave Penn State points.

"I'm not disappointed. I'm mad. And I'm going to be mad for a while."

Tennessee gave up three turnovers, two of them fumbles by tailback Arian Foster that led to 10 Penn State points — the vic-

tory margin, it turned out.

The killer was Foster's fumble that Penn
State defensive back Tony Davis returned
88 yards for a touchdown to break a 10-10

tie with 10:01 to play.

Kevin Kelly's 23-yard field goal made it 2010 with 3:29 to play and the Vols were done.

The Nittany Lions (9-4) were a four-point underdog, but physically punished Tennessee just as they had in previous New Year's Day

dates after the 1991 and '93 seasons.
The Vols reached the end zone just once, on LaMarcus Coker's 42-yard run that tied the score 10-10 with 1:15 to play in the first half.

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TENNESSEE INDIVIDUAL

subscribers blog throughout the game with Josh Ward:

"Is anyone even up yet?" 11:07 AM

"That's just insane when we take a TO and then the receiver runs the wrong 10ECVOL 11:30 AM

"This is scaring me a little because the 1st half is almost over and it's only been a little over an hour. We have to have Tennessee on the field if we want to score points." 10ECVOL 12:12 PM

"Wow! What a run by Coker. He just completely outran their entire defense." ticolson 12:26 PM

"Huge play to Chris Brown, He's usually involved in the short passing game. Big bonus to the offense that hasn't moved a **Josh Ward** 2:01 PM

"Wow -- Can't believe it (fumble)." 2:02 PM

"Unbelievable. What a change of momentum." 2:03 PM

"Oh no!" Truevol 2:03 PM

"They have shown coach Paterno 41 times in the press box. We had a running bet that the over/under would be 30 times. mike willis 2:20 PM

"Hunt is an absolute monster. The D is just worn down. Foster ran the ball well but his turnovers gave PSU 10 points. No one feels worse than Foster -- he needs to keep his head up as he will help UT next year." Taylor 2:20 PM

"The way the Big 11 is playing today I would say this bodes well for Ohio State's chances against Florida.' Truevol 2:28 PM

"Fired Up, Focused, and Prepared. Really???" Truevol

"Now on to better things.....basketball!" tenacjim 2:37 PM

"You wonder why UT fans don't travel to (bowl) games. Since the NC game we are 2-5 in bowl games and we didn't go last year."

10ECVOL 2:43 PM

STATISTICS

		_					
RUSHING							
	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Arian Foster	12	75	10	65	0	17	5.4
LaMarcus Coker	5	44	8	36	1	42	7.2
Monterio Hardesty	3	4	2	2	0	2	0.7
Robert Meachem	1	0	6	-6	0	0	-6.0
Erik Ainge	2	0	14	-14	0	0	-7.0
Totals	23	123	40	83	1	42	3.6

PASSING					
	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Erik Ainge	37-25-1	267	0	53	2
Totals	37-25-1	267	0	53	2

RECEIVING				
	No.	Yds	TD	Long
Jayson Swain	7	84	0	24
Chris Brown	7	66	0	53
Robert Meachem	4	33	0	12
LaMarcus Coker	3	35	0	20
Brad Cottam	1	25	0	25
Arian Foster	1	13	0	13
Josh Briscoe	1	8	0	8
Lucas Taylor	1	3	0	3
Totals .	25	267	0	53

PUNTING						
	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Britton Colquitt	5	220	44.0	49	2	0
Totals	5	220	44.0	49	2	0
ALL RETURNS						

	Punts		Kickoffs			Intercept			
No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	
LaMarcus Coker 0	0	0	1	21	21	0	0	0	
Jonathan Hefney 1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals 1	2	2	1	21	21	0	0	0	
PLACEKICKI	NG								

Field goals James Wilhoit	1st	04:58 4	4 yds	Good	
Kickoffs	No	Yds	ТВ	ОВ	Ava
	NO	ius	ID	UD	Avy
James Wilhoit	3	188	1	0	62.7

Fl	JM	BL	ES

Arian Foster 2, los	st 2										
DEFENSE											
Player S	olo	Ast	Tot	TFL/Yds	FFF	R-Yd	Int	BUp	Blk	Sack QB	ĺ
Marvin Mitchell	11	1	12	1.0-3							
D. Morley	5	1	6					1			
Xavier Mitchell	4	2	6								
Antonio Reynolds	3	3	6								
Ryan Karl	3	1	4								
Turk McBride	2	1	3	1.0-4							
Jonathan Hefney	2	1	3								
Jonathan Wade	2	1	3	1.0-2							
Demonte' Bolden	2	1	_								
Robert Ayers	2		2								
Wes Brown	2		2								
Rico McCoy	2		2								
Antwan Stewart	2		2					1			
Walter Fisher	1		1								
Jerod Mayo	1		1								
Lucas Taylor	1		1								
Erik Ainge	1		1								
Adam Myers-White	e 1		1								

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
TENNESSEE	3	7	0	0 - 10
PENN STATE	0	10	0	10 - 20

TENNESSEE PENN STATE	0	7 10	0	0 - 10 $10 - 20$
TEAM				
			UT	PSU
FIRST DOWNS			17	19
Rushing			6	9
Passing			11	9
Penalty			0	1
NET YARDS RUSHING			83	183
Rushing Attempts			23	40
Average Per Rush			3.6	4.6
Yards Gained Rushing			123 40	192
Yards Lost Rushing NET YARDS PASSING			267	9 197
	c Int	25	37-1	14-25-0
Completions-Attempt	5-1111	25-	7.2	7.9
Average Per Attempt Average Per Completion	on		10.7	1.9 14.1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	JII		350	380
Total offense plays			60	65
Average Gain Per Play			5.8	5.8
Fumbles: Number-Lost			2-2	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yard	ls	-	 7-55	6-45
PUNTS-YARDS	.5		-220	4-150
Average Yards Per Pur	nt		14.0	37.5
Net Yards Per Punt		:	38.2	37.0
Inside 20			2	2
50+ Yards			0	0
Touchbacks			0	0
Fair catch			0	3
KICKOFFS-YARDS		3	-188	5-302
Average Yards Per Kicl	koff		62.7	60.4
Net Yards Per Kickoff			44.7	44.2
Touchbacks			1	3
Punt returns: Number-\	/ards-TD	1	-2-0	2-29-0
Average Per Return			2.0	14.5
Kickoff returns: Numbe	r-Yds-TD	1-2	21-0	2-34-0
Average Per Return			21.0	17.0
Interceptions: Number-			-0-0	1-19-0
Fumble Returns: Numb	er-Yds-TD	0.	-0-0	1-88-1
Miscellaneous Yards			0	0
Possession Time			5:58	33:02
1st Quarter			4:37	10:23
2nd Quarter			3:00	7:00
3rd Quarter		!	9:37	5:23

PENN STATE I	NDI	VID U	IAL				
RUSHING							
Tony Hunt A.J. Wallace Derrick Williams Matt Hahn Anthony Morelli BranDon Snow TEAM Totals	No 31 1 3 1 1 1 2 40	Gain 165 11 6 5 0 0 192	7 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 9	Net 158 11 6 5 0 -2 183	TD 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Lg 24 11 3 5 0 0 24	5.1 11.0 2.0 5.0 5.0 0.0 -1.0 4.6
PASSING							
Anthony Morelli Totals		2!	mp-Int 5-14-0 25-14-0	Yds 197 197	1	35 35	Sack O O
RECEIVING							
Jordan Norwood Deon Butler Derrick Williams Terrell Golden Matt Hahn Tony Hunt Andrew Quarless Totals				No. 4 3 3 1 1 1 1 14	Yds 35 73 27 35 18 7 2 197	TD 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1	21 31 11 35 18 7 2
PUNTING							
Jeremy Kapinos Totals		No. 4 4	Yds 150 150	Avg 37.5 37.5	40 40	In20 2 2	TB 0 0
ALL RETURNS	3						
	Punts Yds Lg 29 20 0 0 0 0 29 20)))	Kickof o Yds 0 0 0 0 2 34 2 34	Lg 0 0 21	No 0 1 0	0 1 19 0 0	pt Lg 0 19 0 19
PLACEKICKIN	IG						
Field goals Kevin Kelly Kevin Kelly Kevin Kelly Kevin Kelly Kevin Kelly			1st 2nd 2nd 4th 4th	11:03 11:43 00:00 10:59 03:29	34 y 54 y 50 y	ds ds M ds M	lissed Good lissed lissed Good

HOW THEY SCORED

FIRST QUARTER

TENNESSEE 3, PENN STATE 0 UT - James Wilhoit 44-yard field goal,

4:58. **Key plays** — Jayson Swain 15 and 24 pass

from Erik Ainge to the PSU 35. **Drive** — 6 plays, 47 yards, 1:58

SECOND QUARTER TENNESSEE 3, PENN STATE 3

PSU — Kevin Kelly 34-yard field goal, 11:43.

Key plays — Arian Foster fumble recovered by Jim Shaw at the UT 24, Derrick Williams 11 pass from Anthony Morelli to the UT 13 on third down.

4th Quarter

PAT Kicks

Field Goals

Third-Down Conversions

Fourth-Down Conversions

Red-Zone Scores-Chances

Sacks By: Number-Yards

Drive — 7 plays, 7 yards, 2:44

PENN STATE 10, TENNESSEE 3

PSU — Andrew Quarless 2 pass from Morelli (Kelly kick), 3:30.

Key plays — Tony Hunt 24 run to the PSU 34. Matt Hahn 18 pass from Morelli to UT 38, Deon Butler 31 pass from Morelli to UT

Drive — 8 plays, 92 yards, 3:01

TENNESSEE 10. PENN STATE 10

UT - LaMarcus Coker 42 run (Wilhoit kick), 1:15.

10:16

4 of 12

0 of 0

3-4

2-14

2-2

2-5

4:44

6 of 13

0 of 1

0-1

0-0

1-1

1-1

Kickoffs

None.

Player

Dan Connor

Tim Shaw

Tony Davis

Sean Lee

Jav Alford

Josh Hull

Matt Hahn

Justin King

Josh Gaines

Jim Shaw

Kelly, Kevin

FUMBLES

DEFENSE

Paul Posluszny

Anthony Scirrotto 6 2 8

Donnie Johnson . 2 2

Jay Alford 2 . 2 2.0-8 Jordan Norwood 1 1 2 1.0-4

Key plays - Coker 18 pass from Ainge, Brad Cottam 25 pass from Ainge on third and

Drive — 6 plays, 80 yards, 2:15

THIRD QUARTER

No scoring

FOURTH QUARTER

PENN STATE 17, TENNESSEE 10

No

5

4 6 10 0.5-1 .

4 4 8 2.5-10

5 2 7 2.0-10

4 2 6 1.0-5

2 2.0-8

5 2 7

1 . 1 1 . 1

. 1 1

Yds

302

Solo Ast Tot TFL/Yds FF FR-Yd Int BUp Blk Sack QBH

. 1-88 .

. 1-0

.1-19

1

TB

OB Avg

0 60.4

. 1.0/9

PSU - Tony Davis 88 fumble return (Kelly

kick), 10:01

PENN STATE 20, TENNESSEE 10

PSU — Kelly 22 field goal, 3:29

Key plays — Hunt rushes of 7, 5, 5, 8, 9, 8 from UT 45 to UT 3, delay of game penalty on fourth and goal from UT 1.

Drive — 10 plays, 39 yards, 5:42



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- Mike Hamilton, UT Men's Athletic Director





the Outback Bowl. The play covered 42 yards and came on Coker's initial carry.

VOLS

from VR1

The only other scoring was James Wilhoit's 44-yard field goal in the first quarter.

Penn State's only offensive touchdown was a 2-yard pass from Anthony Morelli to tight end Andrew Quarless in the second quarter.

The watchword in the Tennessee postmortem was "fundamentals," as in lack there-

"I didn't think we were rusty on offense," said quarterback Erik Ainge. "We were just being stupid."

Turnovers, penalties, miscommunications, poor decision-making. Offensively, at least, the Vols looked like they had a New Year's hangover.

"You can't do that against anybody," said Cutcliffe, "but you certainly can't do that against a team like Penn State that takes care of the ball and does all the little things well.

"The whole day was just fundamentally not right.'

The Nittany Lions played turnover-free, outgained UT by 100 yards on the ground and won the time-of-possession battle, 33:02 to 26:58.

Signs that the Vols would struggle appeared early. On UT's opening series, Robert Meachem dropped a pass that would have converted a third down.

On the second possession, Ainge and receiver Jayson Swain miscommunicated on a route that would have converted another third down deep in Penn State territory.

On the third possession, it

Foster mishandled a pitch to Swain on a reverse that UT's coaches had ticketed for a big Penn State recovered at the

UT 24 and kicked a field goal. "That was a great call," said

Fulmer of the bungled play. "Not a good call, a great call.

"We ran that Tuesday in our scrimmage and it went for a touchdown."

The second turnover was an Ainge pass that was intercepted by Anthony Scirrotto in the third quarter.

"Meachem ran a good route

and I just stared at him too long," said Ainge, who was 25of-37 for 267 yards passing.

The final turnover was the coup de grace.

The Vols had made virtually no penetration into Penn State territory in the second half until Ainge hit tight end Chris Brown for a 53-yard pass to the Nittany Lions' 14.

On the next play, however, Foster was stripped of the ball by Penn State's Sean Lee. Davis scooped it up and raced 88 yards to the end zone.

Just like that, Penn State led 17-10.

"That really changed the whole thing around," said coach Joe Paterno, who directed his 363rd career win from the press box because of a broken leg.

"I don't know what would have happened if they'd have scored. It was obviously a big factor in the game. How big or in what way, I can't tell you."

It shouldn't have been a fatal factor. Tennessee had plenty of time to respond and a track record of doing just that.

"There was a lot of energy on our sideline," said Fulmer. "We've been a very good fourth-quarter team.'

But there wasn't much energy in the huddle when UT's offense went back on the field.

A 2-yard gain, two incomplete passes and Britton Colquitt was punting the ball away. All in 30-something seconds.

"That was the nail in the coffin," said Cutcliffe. Penn State got field position

with a 20-yard punt return, then handed the ball to tailback Tony Hunt (158 rushing yards) six consecutive times to reach first-and-goal at the Tennessee

The Vols dug in and forced a field goal, but still needed two scores in the final 3:29, a tall order in a drizzle against a topnotch defense.

"We just stayed in too many long-yardage situations against a very good defensive team," said Fulmer.

"If we take care of the football, it's at least a more interesting game."

Mike Strange may be reached at 865-342-6276.

ADAMS

from VR1

eight games, the step doesn't seem nearly as significant.

After beating South Carolina on Oct. 28, the Vols were 7-1 and in contention for both the SEC championship and a BCS berth. Since then, they're 2-3 with losses to nationally ranked LSU and Arkansas. Moreover, the Vols were outplayed in the last regular-season game by unranked Kentucky and again by Penn State.

Not only did they lose. They were beset with off-the-field problems.

Three players were suspended after they were arrested for under-age drinking and disorderly conduct in early November. Star running back LaMarcus Coker missed the last five bowl practices in Knoxville and was in Fulmer's doghouse for

undisclosed reasons. Then, wide receiver Bret Smith was ruled academically ineligible for the bowl game.

Yes, this team got the program turned in the right direction. But no, it didn't finish the way it started.

As good as a muchimproved offense was for most of the season, it faded down the stretch. In three of its last four games, the Vols scored 17 points or fewer.

And its defense was hanging by a jersey thread at the end.

Penn State running back Tony Hunt hammered the Vols for 158 yards on 31 carries. And there was nothing mysterious about it. Even when the Vols knew Hunt was coming, they couldn't stop him. With Penn State leading 17-10 in the last nine minutes, Hunt carried seven consecutive times for 39

Making runners look good is nothing new for this defense. Kentucky's Rafael Little rushed for 122 yards on 23 carries in

the last game. Two games before that, Arkansas' Darren McFadden rushed for 181 yards on 30 carries. And the week before that, LSU amassed 231 yards

rushing. Despite its defensive shortcomings, UT found ways to prevail against inferior opponents during the regular season. That changed against

Penn State. The Nittany Lions were unranked for a reason. They lost four games and only beat one Division I-A team with a winning record in the regular

season. But they were better prepared and more resourceful than the Vols, who proved to be underrated at the beginning of the season and overrated at the end.

Sports editor John Adams may be reached at 865-342-6284 or adamsj@knews.com.



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Tight end Andrew Quarless, left, of Penn State scores on a 2-yard pass over Tennessee defensive back Demetrice Morley in the Nittany Lions' 20-10 victory Monday at Tampa, Fla.

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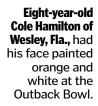
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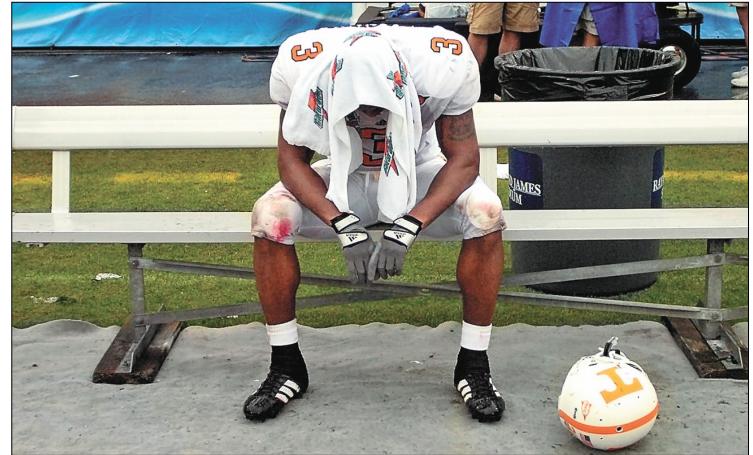
Penn State coach Joe Paterno, right, talks with Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer before the start of the Outback Bowl on Monday.

MIKE CARLSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS



MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

This hat trick wasn't exactly planned by Tennessee running back LaMarcus Coker, middle, as his helmet is knocked off by a host of Penn State defenders. Coker had a 42-yard touchdown run on his first carry of the game, but ended up with a net of 36 yards.



MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL



MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL **Quarterback Erik Ainge of Tennessee** gets off a pass despite a rush by Penn State tackle Jay Alford in the Outback Bowl on Monday.

Tennessee wide receiver Robert Meachem sits on the bench following the Vols' 20-10 loss to Penn State in the Outback Bowl at Tampa, Fla., on Monday. He caught four passes for 33 yards, well below his season's average.

OUARTERBACKS

Erik Ainge was efficient (25of-37 for 267 yards and an interception), but coach Phillip Fulmer said he made a few "undisciplined" plays. Pressure from Penn State's front seven didn't help his cause. Lone interception was a bad throw, and did not throw a touchdown in a full game for the first time since Alabama.

RUNNING BACKS

Arian Foster had perhaps his best game of the season, and LaMarcus Coker broke yet another big play for UT's lone

touchdown. Montario Hardesty had just 2 yards on three carries. The group loses marks for Foster's two fumbles.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Robert Meachem was held to his lowest output of the season, and UT clearly missed Bret Smith's presence over the middle. Jayson Swain was solid, finishing with a careerhigh seven catches. Only big plays came from tight ends Chris Brown and Brad Cottam.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Even without Anthony Parker, the line was able to open holes for Foster and Coker. But Ainge was sacked twice and under pressure quite often. True freshman Jacques

McClendon struggled in his first start against All-American Jay Alford.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Struggled to get a push against Penn State's offensive line, and gave up 158 yards to running back Tony Hunt. Pressure came from the ends, but quarterback Anthony Morelli was not sacked. Ends Xavier Mitchell (6 tackles) and Antonio Reynolds (6 tackles) were solid.

LINEBACKERS

Senior Marvin Mitchell went out on top with 12 tackles, including 11 solos, but Rico McCoy wasn't the presence he was against Vanderbilt and Kentucky. Ryan Karl missed a few tackles, and this unit had difficulty bringing down Hunt by themselves.

SECONDARY

Penn State's game plan was to attack Antwan Stewart, and it worked well. Demetrice Morley had six tackles and a pass breakup, but made an illadvised move for an interception that gave up a big gain. The defensive backs didn't force any interceptions and weren't much of a presence in run support.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Morley blocked a field goal, and punter Dustin Colquitt pinned Penn State inside its 10-yard line twice. James Wilhoit connected from 44 yards, and kick coverage was good.

COACHING

David Cutcliffe deserves credit for finding big plays, even if only one

to Meachem (who was also flagged for pass interference on the play) was dropped and a wide-open reverse ended with a fumble. Defensively, the Vols didn't have an answer for Hunt. The Vols never seemed to click on either side of the ball.

counted. A long pass

OVERALL

UT's 10 points marked its lowest total since a 6-3 loss to Alabama in 2005. Hunt's 158 rushing yards were second only to Darren McFadden's 181 this season for an opponent. Only three missed field goals by Penn State prevented a rout.

- NEWS SENTINEL STAFF

Foster had his high, low moments

Ran well for Vols, but fumbles costly

BY DREW EDWARDS

TAMPA, Fla. — The story line was set up perfectly: On the first day of the new year, Arian Foster would return to relevance for No. 17 Tennessee.

After rushing for minus-5 yards on five carries in the Vols' last three games, he had practiced well.

His flow in 2006 came at Georgia with a three-touchdown performance. The ebb came with off-the-field troubles after the LSU game and those diminished carries immediately after.

All of them could be washed away here just a few miles from the Gulf of Mexico.

Monday's 20-10 loss to Penn State in the Outback Bowl was a little bit of high tide and low tide for Foster.

The sophomore tailback had his best game of the season since a 69-yard performance against Cal in the season-opener. His team-high 65 yards on 12 carries gave him a season-best 5.4-yards per carry average.

But a pair of fumbles put a damper on the momentum Foster built for 2007 in Raymond James Stadium.

On Monday, he looked much more like the back who rushed for 100 yards in his first five career starts than the one who hadn't come within 30 yards of the century mark all season.

Foster entered on UT's third series and promptly ran for gains of 8, 4 and 8 vards.

On the next play, though, Foster looked unsure whether to handoff or pitch to receiver Jayson Swain on an end around.

"It was going to be a big play," UT offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe said. "They got a little penetration which may have gotten Arian a little discombobulated."

The result was a fumble that set up a Penn State field goal seven plays later.

The Vols (9-4) went right back to Foster, who responded with 20 yards on his next three carries and a 13-yard reception on third down.

The next series belonged to LaMarcus Coker, who sprang a draw play for 42 yards and the Vols' lone touchdown.

"As long as Meach (receiver Robert Meachem) got his block, it was going to the house," said Coker, who finished with 36 yards on five carries. "I saw before the ball was even snapped it was going to be a touchdown."

With the game tied 10-10 early in the fourth quarter, the Vols were thinking touchdown again after Erik Ainge connected with tight end Chris Brown for a 53yard pass to the Nittany Lions' 14-yard line.

On the next play, though, Penn State linebacker Sean Lee knocked the ball out of Foster's Tony Davis scooped it up and

went 88 yards for what was the deciding score. As officials reviewed the play, Foster went through the clas-

sic stages of grief. "I was just amazed," he said. "I couldn't believe I put myself and my team in that position. The anger came, and I felt like I was down and frustration came when they called it a

touchdown.'

The replay showed the ball loose with Foster's knee just

inches from the ground.

Teammates consoled him, but after the game Foster sometimes prone to fumbles was still disappointed.

"If you're any kind of competitive athlete at all, you're going to replay it in your mind," he said. "Can't do nothing about it, just learn from the mistake and move on."

The easiest way to do that is to focus on the good, Foster

"You just go back to a circle of people that love you and you love and are going to with you through the ups and downs, love you beyond football," he said. "That's how you get over something like this. You get on your knees and pray, thank God and count your blessings."

Despite the fumbles, the Vols had their chances.

Meachem dropped a long pass — which would have been negated by an offensive passinterference call anyhow — early in the game.

The Vols ran just three plays on the next possession after Penn State's fumble return.

"That one play didn't lose the game for us," Coker said. "It was many plays that went wrong. Arian's fumble definitely didn't lose the game for us. It's not his fault that we lost the game."

UT coach Phillip Fulmer isn't worried about Foster, either.

"He ran the ball really hard and really well and had great vision and got himself north and south," Fulmer said. "Obviously he's got his head down really, really bad right now. He's a tough guy and a good ballplayer, and he'll be fine."

There's still hope for 2007. Foster says he's happy in Knoxville and isn't considering transferring despite the fact his

playing time dwindled considerably late in the season. When he looks to the future, he sees improvement — and the lessons to be learned from

making mistakes. "I don't have no crystal ball," he said. "You don't want to just totally forget about it. You learn by winning and you learn more by losing. You're going to learn

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AMY SMOTHERMAN-BURGESS/NEWS SENTINEL

Defensive tackle Turk McBride (middle) puts a hard lick on Penn State running back Tony Hunt, who was named MVP of the Outback Bowl.

Hunt was tough on UT defense

Vols couldn't stop Penn State running back in second half

BY DAVE HOOKER

TAMPA, Fla. — Tennessee's defense didn't cost the Vols an Outback Bowl victory on Monday. But, when given the chance, the Vols couldn't save themselves from a loss.

Already down a touchdown to Penn State midway through the fourth quarter, the Vols knew a two-score deficit might be impossible to overcome when the Nittany Lions started their drive on the UT45.

"We definitely knew that," junior linebacker Ryan Karl said after UT lost to Penn State 20-10 in the Outback Bowl. "It's just disappointing that we gave up some plays and first downs. To let them go down and kick a field goal, we needed to stop them and not let them score any points to have a chance.

Raymond James Stadium wasn't the site of the sort of fantastic fourth-quarter collapses that have plagued the Vols this season. But it was just enough.

'We're probably going to have a lot more extra conditioning and stuff to get our conditioning ready for the fourth quarter," Karl said of remedying the problem before the 2007 season. "We're going to really work on it this offseason, stop the run and finish games. We did pretty well during the middle of the season finishing games but we've kind of slacked off again.' UT's defense had memorable fourth-quarter

struggles against Florida, Air Force and LSU this season. As for Penn State, Tony Hunt led the charge.

The senior tailback carried the ball seven consecutive times on Penn State's decisive field-goal drive and rushed 31 times for 158 yards.

"I told you guys when I came here that was my biggest concern," UT head coach Phillip Fulmer said of Hunt. "They were tough yards. We didn't do a very good job of getting off blocks, which is a credit to their offensive front. They did a nice job with a couple of misdirection things that kept

us a little bit off balance." The Nittany Lions stayed balanced offensively with some timely completions to a trio of wide receivers, each of whom had at least three recep-

tions and accounted for 10 catches for 135 vards. Antwan Stewart saw most of those yards firsthand. The senior cornerback gave up four receptions for 108 yards.

"That didn't surprise me," Stewart said of Penn State throwing his way early and often. "I put that on my back. I should have played better technique.

I should have played a little more conservative. "It's a game of inches. If I would have had an inch or two there, you never know. I probably would have had a career day. But it didn't happen that way. ... I should have made those plays. That's

Stewart, who began the season at safety, was making his 11th start at cornerback this season since replacing Inky Johnson, who suffered a possible career-ending injury against Air Force on

"When you move a safety to corner, anybody's going to do that," defensive coordinator John Chavis said of the Nittany Lions targeting Stewart. "There was a reason Inky was our starting corner. Antwan did a great job for us. There's a reason he was our starting safety."

Hunt's performance was one for the record books. It was the most rushing attempts and the third-most yards gained by an opposing back against the Vols in a bowl game.

"I think he's a really fine back," Fulmer said. "One of the more underrated backs that I've seen as far as what we've thought of him versus the accolades that he had gotten."

Karl agreed.

"He has good eyes and quick feet and can make you miss — and he's a bruiser," he said. "The first half he did a lot more than we thought he was going to do."

Penn State controlled the game but not the scoreboard in the first quarter. The Nittany Lions held the football for 10:23 despite their average starting field position being their 20-yard line and trailing the Vols 3-0.

The fourth quarter mirrored the first. The Nittany Lions held the ball for 10:16. Karl said fatigue wasn't a factor.

"I think everyone was fine," he said. "It's just they had a good game plan and Tony Hunt's a great running back.

"When you have a good running back like that, they're going to make plays, and they did."

Smith's absence felt by receivers

BY DREW EDWARDS

TAMPA, Fla. — Bret Smith didn't play in Monday's 20-10 loss to Penn State in the Outback Bowl, but that doesn't mean the Tennessee senior receiver wasn't on his teammates' minds.

"As a receiver family, we were playing this game for him," said UT junior Robert Meachem, who had Smith's name written on his eye-black strips. "If you look at all the receivers, we had something with No. 9 on it."

Smith was sent home Saturday morning after Tennessee declared him academically in-The Vols missed Smith on

Monday, both emotionally and physically. Sophomore Josh Briscoe

caught one pass for 8 yards while taking the bulk of Smith's snaps as the No. 3 receiver.

Casey Woods and Lucas Taylor played at receiver as well, but neither caught a pass.

Smith, who caught 39 passes for 453 yards and five touchdowns in 11 games this season, was a presence over the middle that was missed.

"All Bret does is get first downs and touchdowns," Meachem said. "It took a lot from us. At times when we needed first downs, you couldn't just key on me and Swain because it would leave Bret open. It hurt not having him here."

Meachem and No. 2 receiver Jayson Swain were complimentary of Briscoe's effort.

'Whenever a guy like Bret's not out there, you definitely got to find a way to make up for his dynamic plays," Swain said. "We just came up a little short."

To Go Or Not To Go: Meachem said that the loss would not have any bearing on his decision to stay at UT or turn pro and give up his final year of eligibility. "The NFL was a distraction

for everybody else," he said. "I wasn't thinking about the NFL. I was thinking about winning this last game.' Meachem finished with just

four receptions and a seasonlow 33 yards. He also dropped a pair of passes. shadowed Penn State

Meachem with a linebacker underneath, a safety over the top and a cornerback for much of the day. Meachem saw that a lot late

in the season, and will surely see more of the same if he chooses to return.

But that won't play a part in his decision either.

"You got David Cutcliffe," he said about UT's offensive cordinator. "He'll find a way to hide you; he'll find a way to get you that ball. That doesn't play a role in my mind either."

Underclassmen have until Jan. 15 to declare for the NFL

Stick To System: Quarterback

Erik Ainge had a fine day statistically but UT coach Phillip Fulmer noted a couple of questionable decisions that contributed to UT's inability to respond to Penn State's go-ahead touchdown.

'Erik made a couple of undisciplined plays, to be honest with you," Fulmer said.

'We've got to get back to using the system the way it is, not forcing the ball to individuals and making plays that aren't re-

ally designed to be made. "We didn't do a very good job managing down and distance."

Ainge set the UT season record for completion percentage with 66.9 percent (233of-348), surpassing Heath Shuler's 64.6 percent in 1993.

Tell The Kids: UT linebacker Ryan Karl said the bowl was special because of Penn State coach Joe Paterno's legacy in

college football. "I want to be able to tell my kids I played against Joe Paterno and a tradition like Penn State," said Karl. "I knew it was going to be this bruising-type

"They came out and ran it at us and told us to stop 'em."

The win was the 363rd of Paterno's career. He trails only Bobby Bowden of Florida State, who has 366.

Fill-ins: Rico McCoy started his second consecutive game at weakside linebacker in place of Jerod Mayo (knee).

Mayo played sparingly, and McCoy had just two tackles after leading the Vols against Vanderbilt and Kentucky.

True freshman Jacques Mc-Clendon made his first career start at right guard.

Redshirt freshman Ramon Johnson, who entered when David Ligon went out briefly, played for much of the game and moved to right guard when Ligon returned.

'We were supposed to come in and out," Foster said. "When we had the momentum, we just kept the same lineup for the most part."

Extra Points: Athletic department stalwart Gus Manning attended his 40th consecutive bowl game Monday. Manning, originally hired by Gen. Robert Neyland, has seen all but six of UT's bowl games. ... UT's 10 points were its lowest total since scoring three at Alabama in 2005 ... Phillip Fulmer is 7-7 alltime in bowl games. ... Demetrice Morley's deflection of a 50yard Penn State field-goal attempt was the first blocked field goal by UT since the 2003 season against Alabama. ... UT kicker James Wilhoit finished his career second on the school all-time scoring list with 325

Mike Strange contributed to

Scoop-score drill pays off for Penn State

Lee forces fumble, Davis gets game-turning TD

BY JOHN ADAMS

TAMPA, Fla. — At the end of Penn State's last practice, defensive coordinator Tom Bradley called for the "scoopand-score" drill.

Cornerback Tony Davis couldn't help but laugh. "Like that's going to happen,"

Bradley then dropped the footballs on the ground, and his defensive backs went to work, "scooping and scoring" so to speak.

The drill went even better Monday afternoon at Raymond James Stadium. But Bradley had nothing to do with it.

This time, Tennessee running back Arian Foster dropped the ball. Davis scooped it up and ran 88 yards for a game-changing, fourth-quarter touchdown in the Nittany Lions' 20-10 upset

While the Nittany Lions celebrated, officials called for a review. Davis wasn't worried.

"I saw the ball come out before his (Foster's) knee hit the ground," Davis said. "I just started running. I knew it was going to count."

Davis got the six points, but he shouldn't get all the credit. Linebacker Sean Lee had a huge hand in the turnover, which occurred just as the Vols were threatening to break a 10-10 tie. When Lee knocked the ball loose, Davis was in perfect position to make

That wasn't the only time Penn State's linebackers and defensive backs teamed up. They all played a role in holding UT All-American wide receiver Robert Meachem to four catches for 33 yards.

With the Lions playing mainly zone coverage, the linebackers repeatedly dropped back into the secondary to help sophomore cornerback Justin King, who was the primary defender against Meachem.

"Our coaches had a really good scheme for them," linebacker Dan Connor said. "We knew Justin was going to have his hands full with Meachem. But we gave him a lot of help."

Meachem was the focal point of King's video preparation. But the real thing was more impressive than the pre-

"I was surprised he was that fast," King said. "He's so big and strong, you don't expect him to be that fast.'

Neither Meachem's speed nor size was much of a factor against the Nittany Lions. His longest play covered a measly 12 yards. During the regular season, he averaged 18.9 yards on 67 receptions, 11 of which went for touch-

Meachem dropped two passes in his worst performance of the season. One of the drops was nullified by an offensive pass-interference call against him.

Not all of the problems were on the receiving end of UT's passing attack. Quarterback Erik Ainge completed 25 of 37 passes, but only hit on two of his last seven. He also threw a crucial, thirdquarter interception.

Hard-hitting safety Anthony Scirrotto, who made the interception, was another one of Penn State's secondary stars. In addition to the interception, he had eight tackles and broke



J. MERIC/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cornerback Tony Davis races 88 yards for a fourth-quarter touchdown after scooping up a fumble by UT's Arian Foster in the Outback Bowl on Monday in Tampa, Fla.

up two passes.

Scirrotto also had the hit of the game. On the second play of the third quarter, Ainge threw deep to an open Jayson Swain. But the ball hung in the air just long enough for Scirrotto to come across the field and jolt Swain as he tried to make the catch.

Swain was down for several minutes

before finally jogging off the field.

Coaches Box: Penn State coach Joe Paterno, who suffered a broken leg in a sideline collision in November spent the game in the press box.

"Before the game, I went out on the field, and it was getting a little muddy," said the 80-year-old Paterno. "I was wor-

ried whether I could stay on the field for three hours."

After conferring with his orthopedist, Paterno decided to coach from the press box, as he did against Michigan State. He thought about going down on the field for the second half but decided to stay where he was.

"We've got a great staff," he said. "They needed me down there like a hole

MVP Performance: Paterno and UT coach Phillip Fulmer each said last week how underrated Penn State running back Tony Hunt was. He played up to their compliments Monday.

Hunt, who was named the game's MVP, carried 31 times for 158 yards. He was never better than on Penn State's last meaningful possession, which ended with Kevin Kelly's 22-yard field goal with 3:29 to play.

Hunt carried seven consecutive times for 39 yards against a weary-looking UT defensive front.

Growing Up: Junior quarterback Anthony Morelli, a lightning rod for criticism this Penn State season, was at his best against the Vols. He completed 14 of 25 passes for 197 yards, a touchdown and no interceptions.

"I thought he was a big-time quarterback," Paterno said. "He played with

"He grew up in a lot of different ways today. He showed people what kind of quarterback he is."

Sports editor John Adams may be reached at 865-342-6284 or adamsi@knews.com.

Two carries, two touchdowns for Stewart

Ex-Maryville star in right spot to 'win ugly'

Associated Press

DALLAS — Even though only Auburn managed to beat two teams playing in the BCS, Tommy Tuberville never thought he had a great team this season.

Imagine how good the No. 10 Tigers might be if they can find some consistent big playmakers.

Auburn took advantage of Ne-**COTTON BOWL**

Auburn

17 Nebraska

braska mistakes. got two short touchdowns from former Maryville High

School star Carl Stewart on his only touches of the game and beat the No. 22 Cornhuskers 17-14 in the Cotton Bowl on

Monday despite only 178 total yards. "That was typical Auburn, win and win ugly," Tuberville said. "That's how this team has done it all year. They scrap and claw."

Even without any superstar players, Auburn (11-2) made its seventh consecutive bowl game — and third in a row in January. Its 33-5 record the past three seasons is bettered only by Southern California and Texas, the last two national cham-

"These guys have overcome a lot of things. It's hard to imagine what we've done," said Tuberville, 71-29 after coaching his 100th Auburn

The Tigers can even wonder what might have been had they not lost to Georgia and Arkansas, the latter which instead won the SEC West. Auburn beat LSU and No. 2 Florida, which plays Ohio State in the Bowl Championship Series title game. The Gators' only loss was at Auburn in mid-October.

"We're grungy. Whatever it takes to win, that's what we do," defensive end Quentin Groves said. "The main thing people are going to say is they're a grungy bunch, but they still have 11 wins.

John Vaughn's 42-yard field goal midway through the third quarter accounted for the only points after halftime. And it was enough to make Auburn the fourth consecutive SEC team to win the Cotton Bowl.

Nebraska (9-5), trying to return to national prominence under coach Bill Callahan, opened with a dominating 15-play, 80-yard drive capped by Zac Taylor's 13-yard touchdown pass to Nate Swift. But the Cornhuskers couldn't do much else right.

"It hurts," Taylor said. "But I don't think it sets our program back at all. I think we're headed in the right di-

Nebraska didn't even make a bowl two years ago, when it ended Callahan's first season with a losing record that snapped Nebraska's NCAArecord streak of 35 straight bowl appearances. The Cornhuskers won



TONY GUTIERREZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Maryville High School star Carl Stewart, top, is hit by Nebraska linebacker Lance Brandenburgh, right, but not before he crosses the goal line in the second quarter of the Cotton Bowl on Monday at Dallas.

the Big 12 North this season.

Nebraska still had a chance for a 10-win season with 5:24 left when Stewart Bradley sacked Brandon Cox, stripped the ball and recovered at the Auburn 42.

The Cornhuskers got to the 30, after converting a third down for the first time since their opening drive. But Taylor was under heavy pressure on fourth down when he threw the ball well over the head of his intended receiver and out of bounds.

Callahan said the Cornhuskers went for the first down because they were out of Jordan Congdon's range to try to kick a tying field goal. The sophomore kicker's career long is 41

"Everybody was on the same page, and that's a decision that we live with," Callahan said.

Auburn couldn't run the clock out because Kenny Irons was stopped a foot short on third-and-2. After initially being ruled a first down, officials reviewed the play and changed the spot.

The Tigers were forced to punt, and Taylor had one more chance a long desperation pass that dropped incomplete in a group of players near the 25.

Nebraska's opening drive took more than half of the first quarter. Marlon Lucky touched the ball on 11 of the 15 plays, converting a thirdand-19 from midfield when he caught a shuffle pass and got just enough yards for a first down.

The Cornhuskers had four thirddown conversions on the opening

drive, and only one more the rest of the game. They had only 63 total yards after halftime.

After the opening TD, Taylor's next pass was thrown behind Terrence Nunn. It bounced into the air and was intercepted by Karibi Dede, who rambled 52 yards to the 9. From there, Stewart caught a pass out of the backfield and scored untouched.

Then on fourth-and-1 from their 29, the Cornhuskers tried a fake punt. They instead fumbled on an at-

tempted reverse and lost 15 yards. Courtney Taylor, who became Auburn's career receiving leader, had a leaping 12-yard catch to set up Stewart's 1-yard leap into the end zone. Stewart had only two TDs in the regular season, one of those in

the opener.

Wisconsin able to bottle up McFadden

QB Stocco is MVP but defense does job for Wisconsin

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. - Darren McFadden broke free on his first carry and raced into the Wisconsin secondary. Defensive back Jack Ikegwuonu did what few players have — he ran down the Arkansas star.

McFadden's 45-yard run gave the Razorbacks the ball at the Wisconsin 9-yard line, but Arkansas (10-4) came away with no points when Jeremy Davis missed a 30-yard field goal.
"I know that McFadden is a very fast football

player," Badgers coach Bret Bielema said. "For us to be able to track him down and pull him down ... may have changed the entire landscape of the game."

With its running game stifled and its quarterback un- CAPITAL ONE BOWL der constant pressure, the Wisconsin sixth-ranked Badgers did Arkansas just enough to hold off No.

12 Arkansas 17-14 Monday in the Capital One Bowl. John Stocco threw two firsthalf touchdown passes, and Wisconsin (12-1) sur-

vived despite being held to minus-5 yards rushing. McFadden, the Heisman Trophy runner-up, suffered an ankle injury in the SEC championship game Dec. 2, and it appeared to be bothering him still.

"If Darren is 100 percent, I don't think anyone would have caught him on that play," Arkansas coach Houston Nutt said. "Usually he's pretty good at 90 percent, too ... the fact that we weren't able to come out of that with any points was pretty big." McFadden rushed for 89 yards to finish the season with 1,647, the fifth-highest total in SEC his-

Wisconsin won 12 games in a season for the first time and has a chance to finish in the top five na-

tionally — quite a reward for a team overshadowed by Big Ten rivals Ohio State and Michigan. This was the Badgers' first win over a ranked team. Their only loss was to Michigan, and Ohio

State wasn't on their conference schedule. "One of the biggest things we did at one of our team meetings this week was that we played some news clips from some of the news stations back in Arkansas," Bielema said. "Once again, they pointed out that we hadn't played anybody this year ...

we certainly used that as a motivational factor." Wisconsin won nine in a row to finish the season and can now boast of a second consecutive Capital One Bowl win over the SEC. The Badgers beat Auburn 24-10 last year.

"We didn't need to beat this team to validate that we're a great team," Stocco said.

Taylor Mehlhaff opened the scoring for the Badgers with a 52-yard field goal, a career long and a Capital One Bowl record. Felix Jones answered quickly for Arkansas with a 76-yard touchdown run.

Stocco threw touchdown passes of 22 yards to Paul Hubbard and 13 yards to Travis Beckum, giving the Badgers a 17-7 halftime lead. Jones, who quietly surpassed 1,000 yards this season alongside McFadden, made it 17-14 on a 12-yard run in the

Jones finished with a career-high 150 yards on 14 carries.

Stocco, the game's most valuable player, went 14of-34 for 206 yards with two interceptions. He was also sacked six times.

But the Badgers passed the ball better than Arkansas. The Razorbacks stuck with their plan to start Casey Dick at quarterback.

Dick went 9-of-21 for 98 yards with an interception. Mitch Mustain was 5-of-10 for 41 yards with an interception.

Southern Cal starts campaigning for '07

Jarrett sensational (11 catches, 205 yards) to quiet Michigan

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Even before his uniform had come off, Dwayne Jarrett's teammates were lobbying him to wear it one more year.

After the day he had in the Rose Bowl, it was easy to see why.

Jarrett, the sensational Southern California junior, caught 11 passes for 205 yards and two touchdowns to help the

ROSE BOWL

Southern Cal 32 Michigan

eighth-ranked Trojans finish their season with a statement Monday in a 32-18 romp over Michigan.

It was an all-encompassing blowout over a solid, third-ranked Michigan squad that positioned USC (11-2) as maybe The Team to watch next season.

And that's even if Jarrett takes the bucks and heads to the NFL.

"I said to him, 'One more year, man. We've got to do this again next year,' ' quarterback John David Booty said. "He's got to do what's best for him and his family, but he definitely knows that I want him back here. After a performance like this tonight, it's going to be tough to keep him out of the league."

Booty was no slouch, either. He threw for 391 yards and four scores to land himself on the early short list of next season's Heisman favorites. Jarrett would be there if he decides to return. Meanwhile, linebacker Brian Cushing had 21/2 sacks and defensive end Lawrence Jackson came up with two turnovers on a day when the Trojans must have been thinking about next season, to say nothing of the opportunity it squandered in the one that just ended.

This convincing victory came a month after a 13-9 loss to UCLA in this stadium wrecked their chances for another shot at the national title.

'Our guys know that wasn't us," coach Pete Carroll said. "That was the single game out of the last 65 that stood out because it was so different and unusual. So we put it behind us. This was an opportunity to kickstart what's going on for this football team for the future. I think we captured the night. We captured the opportunity."

With most of USC's star underclassmen coming back, Jarrett said he'll sit down with his family to discuss his future. If this was his last college game, it was quite a finale.

His 62-yard touchdown behind All-American cornerback Leon Hall put USC ahead 25-11 early in the fourth and

showed just how good the 6-foot-5 pass



Southern Cal's Dwayne Jarrett scores one of his two touchdowns against Michigan in the Rose Bowl on Monday in Pasadena, Calif. Jarrett caught 11 passes for 205 yards.

MARK J. TERRILL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

catcher can be.

For icing, Jarrett outjumped a pair of Michigan defenders for a 29-yard gain midway through the fourth quarter. A few plays later, Booty threw his fourth touchdown pass — this one to senior Steve Smith, who finished with seven catches for 108 yards.

"He was as advertised," Hall said, referring to Jarrett. "He's a playmaker. We

saw it on film, and we saw it today." Joining Hall on the losing end were Chad Henne, Mike Hart and big group of Michigan juniors who also should be a force next season.

They came in wondering if maybe they hadn't gotten a raw deal by being left out of the national title game after a back-and-forth 42-39 loss to Ohio State in the wake of Bo Schembechler's death.

But these Wolverines didn't look as good as the ones who lost that heartbreaker in November. And they hardly looked like champions.

"I don't want to compare teams," coach Lloyd Carr said when asked how USC looked next to Ohio State. "I said going into this game, USC is the best de-

fensive team we've played, and there's no doubt in my mind that they are."

Henne didn't get the Wolverines past the USC 20 until they had fallen behind 19-3. When Michigan finally did reach the end zone to cut its deficit to 19-11, the Trojans came right back with Jarrett's long touchdown.

Henne finished with good numbers 26-for-41 for 309 yards — but most of them came after the game was out of hand. He also got sacked six times. Hart finished with 47 yards, the first time he's been held under 90 all year.

Carr's team lost its fourth straight bowl game and ended the season on a two-game losing streak for the third consecutive year. Granted, there was nothing riding on this game between arguably the two best teams that weren't playing for the BCS championship. Then again, getting stomped like that can make for a tough offseason.

"I think it mattered a lot," Carr said. They're tremendously disappointed because they wanted to win. Anybody that thinks this game doesn't mean a lot doesn't know much about this game."

Battered White rallies West Virginia

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Patrick White was bruised and determined with the Gator Bowl hanging in the balance.

The quarterback played through ankle, hand and neck injuries to lead West Virginia back from an 18-point deficit in the second half for a 38-35 win over Georgia Tech on Monday.

"He kind of willed us to victory," Mountaineers coach Rich Rodriguez said.

White was 9-of-15 for 131 yards and two touchdowns and rushed

GATOR BOWL

West Virginia Georgia Tech

22 times for 145 yards and 38 a score. 35 He handled the

bulk of the carries with tailback Steve Slaton, the country's thirdleading rusher at 144 yards a game, limited with a badly bruised left thigh. Slaton's status was uncertain before kickoff, and the sophomore managed just 11 yards on three carries — all in the first half. Owen Schmitt also ran 13 times for 109 yards and two

"I was hurting a lot, but I had to block it out. I had to play ball," White said. "It makes me want to play harder - when I'm injured I get a little angry."

The teams set a Gator Bowl record for scoring, breaking the previous mark set in Tennessee's 45-23 win over Virginia Tech in 1994, and records for total yardage (928), most plays (121) and most first downs (40).

Georgia Tech (9-5) tried a 54yard field goal on fourth-and-9 with 5 minutes left that could have tied the score, but Travis Bell's kick fell well short. West

Virginia then ran out the clock. It was an astonishing turnaround from the first half, in

which Georgia Tech's sophomore quarterback Taylor Bennett and All-America wideout Calvin Johnson picked apart West Virginia's secondary.

It was Georgia Tech's third loss in a row by three points, including the regular season closer at Georgia and the Atlantic Coast Conference championship against Wake Forest. 'That's been our story, this

season with all thee losses at the end," Yellow Jackets linebacker KaMichael Hall said. "You've got to learn how to finish.' The Mountaineers (11-2) also

couldn't stop Tashard Choice, who ran 27 times for 169 yards and two touchdowns. Johnson finished with 186 yards receiving and two TDs.

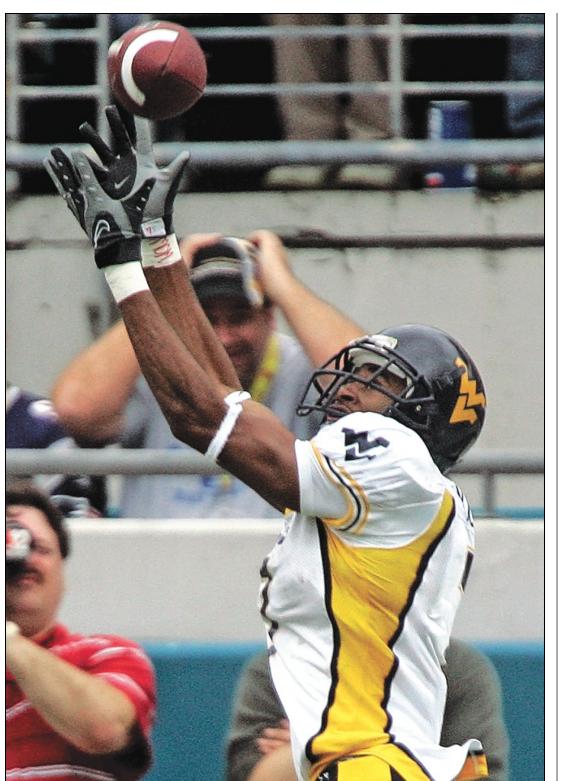
Bennett, starting for the second time in his career, was 19of-29 for 326 yards. He was playing in place of Reggie Ball, a four-year starter ruled academically ineligible a week-and-ahalf ago.

Tech opened the second half by recovering an onside kick at its 46-yard line. Choice had a 17yard run and Johnson jumped between two defenders for a 32yard pass before Choice ran it in from 5 yards out to put the Yellow Jackets up 35-17.

White then caught Georgia Tech off-guard in the third quarter for a 57-yard touchdown pass.

Following an apparent offsides by the Yellow Jackets, West Virginia snapped it but the offensive line didn't move. The play wasn't dead, and White rolled out and found Tito Gonzales racing down the field for the score. The Mountaineers declined the defensive penalty.

"It was a freeze play to get the defense offsides," White said, adding that it was the first time the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla. West Virginia won, 38-35. all year it had worked that well.



PHIL COALE/ASSOCIATED PRESS West Virginia's Brandy Myles makes a third-quarter touchdown catch Monday against Georgia Tech in

Draft will wait, Quinn

wants win Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Brady Quinn has one more college game to impress the NFL scouts, one more chance to show he's worthy of being the top pick in the draft.

That's not exactly what he's focused on, though.

Notre Dame's star quarterback merely wants a win in Wednesday night's Sugar Bowl, not another batch of eye-catching stats. If he throws three interceptions and the Fighting Irish still come out on top, that's fine with him.

The draft? That's for another day. The head-to-head matchup with LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell? Let the media have fun with that one.

"I just want to play a good game for my team," Quinn said. "I'm not worried about putting up numbers and silly little things like that. If he has a better game than me and we win, that's fine, that's great, that's all that matters."

Besides, Quinn already has put up enough numbers to show the NFL what he's capable of doing in a pro-style offense. Over the past two seasons, he's thrown for nearly 7,200 yards, with an astonishing touchdown-to-interception ratio (67 TDs, only 12 picks).

More important to Quinn, he's been a major part of helping Notre Dame reclaim its status as a college football powerhouse. While the No. 11 Fighting Irish (10-2) fell a bit short of expectations this season, they still earned a spot in the Sugar Bowl against No. 4 LSU (10-2).

"A win in this game would be a great way to cap off the career for me and the rest of the seniors," Quinn said. "We overcame a lot of tough times."

Alabama AD in Miami to meet with Saban

VOL REPORT

Associated Press

Alabama officials reportedly are targeting Miami Dolphins coach Nick Saban for the Crimson Tide's coaching job.

Athletic director Mal Moore left Tuscaloosa on a plane Monday headed for a Miami area airport, The Birmingham News reported on its Web site.

Several newspapers reported that Alabama was prepared to offer Saban a seven-year deal that would make him college football's highest-paid coach, surpassing Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, who makes some \$3.45 million per season.

Moore said he won't comment on the coaching search until it's over.

"I will talk when all this is done and over with," Moore told The Associated Press Monday. "I'm talking with three or four different coaches at this point so I don't want to comment about any coach."

Saban's agent, Jimmy Sexton, declined to comment on the reports when reached on Monday.

Saban has a five-year deal with the Dolphins worth about \$25 million. In recent weeks, he repeatedly has denied that he may head to Tuscaloosa.

"I'm not going to be the Alabama coach," he said on Dec. 21.

The former LSU coach went 6-10 in his second season with the Dolphins, ending with a 27-22 loss at Indianapolis on Sunday. He is 15-17 in two years.

Saban said last week he would no longer address other jobs, and reiterated that policy when asked about Alabama after the game.

Alabama had earlier offered the job to West Virginia's Rich Rodriguez. The post came open when Mike Shula was fired by Alabama in late November.

Having a coach in place this week has added importance for the Tide. The NCAA's recruiting "dead period" started Dec. 18 and is scheduled to end on

New Stadium in Memphis? Memphis

Mayor Willie Herenton said that he wants to push for a new 50,000-seat football stadium as the centerpiece of a broad campaign to clean up the city's facilities.

Herenton said his financial team would begin working with the city council early this year to build a replacement for 42-year-old Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium, where the University of Memphis plays and the AutoZone Liberty Bowl is held.

The mayor introduced the idea at his annual prayer breakfast, although he would not say how much he expected the project would cost, The Commercial Appeal reported. He said building a new stadium would

save about \$30 million over renovating the "antiquated" Liberty Bowl and he planned to seek private investment and state funding.

The university would work with the city to secure naming rights to help fund the new stadium, athletic director R.C. Johnson said.

"That's part of getting this project completed," Johnson said of the naming rights. "They're doing that everywhere else around the country."

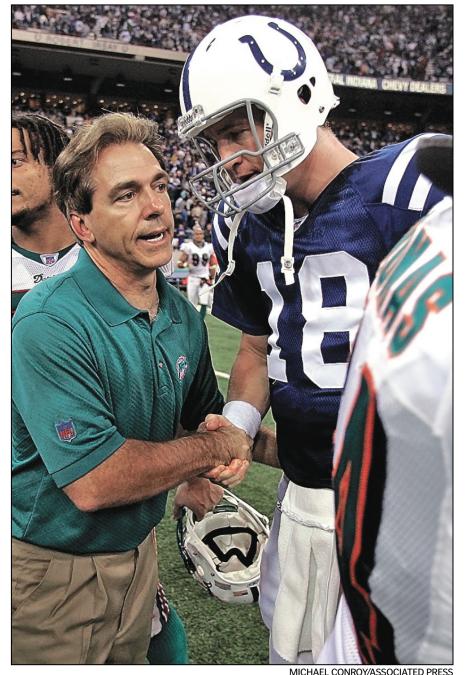
Herenton also proposed tearing down the Mid-South Coliseum as part of an overall renovation of the city's 170-acre fairgrounds.

The fairgrounds is probably the most important piece of real estate in Memphis," said city chief financial officer Robert Lipscomb. "Location, location, location.

In other college football news:

■ Miami tight end Greg Olsen plans to skip his senior season and turn pro, after signing with agent Drew Rosen-

■ According to a report in the Charleston (W.Va.) Daily Mail, West Virginia offensive-line coach Rick Trickett has been contacted by Florida State. Trickett has coaching ties to LSU offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher, considered the front-runner for the offensive coordinator position.



Miami Dolphins coach Nick Saban, left, talks with Indianapolis Colt quarterback Peyton Manning following Sunday night's game in Indianapolis.

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

TODAY

ORANGE BOWL

At Miami, 8 p.m. (WTNZ). Payout: \$17 million.

Favorite	Open	Today	O/E	Underdog
Louisville	11	10	(52)	Wake Forest

WEDNESDAY

SUGAR BOWL

At New Orleans, 8 p.m. (WTNZ). Payout: \$17 million.

Favorite	Open	Today	O/E	Underdog
LSU	7	9½	(56)	Notre Dame

SATURDAY

INTERNATIONAL BOWL

At Toronto, noon (ESPN2). Payout: \$750,000

Favorite	Open	Today	O/E	Underdog
Cincinnati	9	7 ½	(41½)	W. Michigan

GMAC BOWL

At Mobile, Ala., 8 p.m. (ESPN). Payout: \$750,000

Favorite	Open	Today	O/E	Underdog
Southern Miss.	6½	6	(41½)	Ohio

JAN. 8

BCS CHAMPIONSHIP

At Glendale, Ariz., 8 p.m. (WTNZ). Payout: \$17 million.

Favorite	Open	Today	O/E	Underdog
Ohio St.	8	7 ½	(46)	Florida

ORANGE BOWL

No. 15 Wake Forest (11-2) vs. No. 6 Louisville (11-1)

Where: Miami.

Television: WTNZ, 8 p.m.

Favorite: Power ratings say Louisville by 10. Coaches: Jim Grobe (37-34 in 6th year at Wake) and Bobby

Petrino (40-9 in fourth year at Louisville).

Payout: Each school receives \$17 million.

Bowl Records: Wake Forest is 4-2. Louisville is 5-7-1. Last Bowl: Wake beat Oregon, 38-17, in the 2002 Seattle Bowl.

Louisville lost to Va. Tech, 35-24, in last year's Gator Bowl. Series History: First meeting.

Game facts: Making first BCS bowl appearance and first New Year's Day appearance since 1946 Gator Bowl, Cinderella Demon Deacons already have set school record with 11 wins (surpassing previous best of eight in 1979 and '44) including a 5-0 mark in games decided by 7 points or less. Keys have been taking care of ball (led ACC, fourth in nation in turnover ratio, 29 gained, 15 lost), wunderkind freshman QB Riley Skinner (led ACC in QB rating, 150-of-227, 1,780 passing, 8 TDs, 4 ints.), LB Jon Abbate (sixth in ACC with 105 tackles), superb kicking of P-K Sam Swank (led ACC, fourth in nation with 21 FGs, 5 outside 50 yards, 41.4 yards per punt). But can defense (10th in nation in scoring, 14.7 ppg) slow down high-powered Cardinals' attack (second in nation in total offense, 476.8 ypg) led by QB Brian Brohm (led Big East, 9th in nation in QB rating, 175-of-279, 2,738 passing, 16 TDs, 5 ints., only 10 ints. in 580 passes over last two seasons)? Fast defense (second in nation with 41 sacks) will be out to rattle Skinner early with LB Malik Jackson (8 sacks, 14 tackles for loss), CB William Gay (54 tackles, 5 ints.) leading charge. K Art Carmody (20-of-23 on FGs) won Groza award for nation's top kicker.

- SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE



ED REINKE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Louisville quarterback Brian Brohm tries to avoid Lindsey Witten of UConn during their game on

Final chapter for Louisville's Brohm?

Associated Press

MIAMI — There are certain expectations that come with being the Golden Boy of the first family of Louisville football.

Brian Brohm has surpassed every one.

Yet all the wins and all the yards and all the attention can't protect the Louisville quarterback from his toughest audience: the Brohm family dinner table.

More than a few long Sunday afternoons through the years have been spent with Brohm listening to father Oscar and older brothers Jeff and Greg — all former Cardinal players — breaking down his performance, for better or for And no matter how good

the better is, Brian knows his father and brothers won't let him go without mentioning the worse, no matter how little of it there is.

'I always have something to work on and (they don't) let you get the big head," Brohm said. "They've always

kept me down and kept me working hard.' All that effort has helped the

youngest Brohm do something

ORANGE BOWL

this season his father and brothers could never dream: leading the fifth-ranked Cardinals to a Big East title and a berth in the Orange Bowl. Louisville (11-1) plays No. 15 Wake Forest (11-2) tonight with a chance to put an exclamation point on the greatest season in school history.

A win could provide a fitting final chapter of a family legacy that began nearly 40 years ago when Oscar called the plays in front of sparse crowds at Cardinal Stadium for a program that played in the Missouri Valley Conference against the likes of Drake and North Texas State.

Four decades later, the Cardinals are a fixture on national television playing against college football's elite while Oscar's youngest son leads one of the country's most dynamic offenses in front of packed houses at sparkling Papa John's Stadium.

since 1968. And while Jeff, the

team's quarterback coach, and

Greg, the director of football

A Brohm has been involved in nearly ever significant moment in the program's history

operations, will likely remain on coach Bobby Petrino's staff for the foreseeable future, the Orange Bowl might be the final time a Brohm dons a Louisville jersey — at least until the next generation.

Though Brian has said repeatedly that he's not ready to think about the NFL, the NFL apparently, is ready to think about him. His name pops up frequently in mock drafts and one "expert" last week even projected him as the top quarterback taken.

"You can't worry about that," Brian said. "I'm just thinking about going out and winning the Orange Bowl for this program." Twice in the last 13 months

he has sustained a significant injury. He suffered a torn ACL in his right knee against Syracuse at the end of his sophomore season and sustained ligament damage to the thumb on his right (throwing) hand in a win over Miami this season.

Both injuries required surgery. And both times Brohm was back on the field ahead of schedule.

"That's how I'm made, I don't want to miss any games or be out for anything," Brohm

BOWL SUMMARIES

Capital One Bowl

No. 6 Wisconsin 17, No. 12 Arkansas 14 Arkansas Wisconsin

First Quarter
Wis—FG Mehlhaff 52, 10:01.
Ark—Jones 76 run (J.Davis kick), 9:19.
Wis—Hubbard 22 pass from Stocco (Mehlhaff kick), :28.

Second Quarter
Wis-Beckum 13 pass from Stocco (Mehlhaff kick), 6:13.

Fourth Quarter Ark—Jones 12 run (J.Davis kick), 14:04. A—60,774.

Team Statistics

	Ark	Wis
First downs	18	15
Rushes-yards	34-232	28-(-5)
Passing	136	206
Comp-Att-Int	15-32-2	14-34-2
Return Yards	15	18
Punts-Avg.	8-33.6	7-42.7
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	12-123	4-35
Possession	30:29	29:31
Possession	30:29	2

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Arkansas, Jones 14-150, McFadden 19-89, Mustain 0-5, Dick 1-(minus 12). Wisconsin, Hill Jr. 19-36, Stocco 9-(minus 41). **Passing:** Arkansas, Dick 9-21-1-98, Mustain 5-10-1-41, McFadden 1-1-0-(minus 3). Wisconsin, Stocco 14-34-2-

Receiving: Arkansas, Ro.Johnson 4-46, Jones 4-2, C.Washington 3-46, Miller 1-19, Monk 1-13, Cleveland 1-5, F.Jackson 1-5. Wisconsin, Beckum 5-82, Hubbard 4-73, Swan 4-27, Crooks 1-24.

Gator Bowl

No. 13 West Virginia 38, Georgia Tech 35 Georgia Tech West Virginia

First Quarter
WVU—Schmitt 1 run (McAfee kick), 10:16.
GaT—C.Johnson 31 pass from Bennett (Bell kick), 8:12.
GaT—Choice 3 run (Bell kick), 3:13.

Third Quarter
GaT—Choice 5 run (Bell kick), 13:48.
WVU—Gonzales 57 pass from White (McAfee kick), 12:31.
WVU—White 15 run (McAfee kick), 5:57.
WVU—White 15 run (McAfee kick), 5:57. **Team Statistics**

WVU

FIRST downs	20	20
Rushes-yards	32-160	45-311
Passing	326	131
Comp-Att-Int	19-29-1	9-15-0
Return Yards	25	6
Punts-Avg.	4-46.0	5-40.8
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-37	3-30
Possession	28:57	31:03

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Georgia Tech, Choice 27-169, J.Evans 2-10, Bennett 3-(minus 19). West Virginia, White 22-145, Schmitt 13-109, Collington 6-26, Reynaud 1-20, Slaton 3-11.
Passing: Georgia Tech, Bennett 19-29-1-326. West Virginia, White 9-15-0-131.
Receiving: Georgia Tech, C. Johnson 9-186, Choice 4-28, J.Johnson 2-68, Grant 2-14, Cooper 1-21, Matthews 1-9. West Virginia, Myles 6-54, Slaton 2-20, Gonzales 1-57.

Cotton Bowl

No. 10 Auburn 17, No. 22 Nebraska 14 Auburn Nebraska First Quarter
Neb—Swift 13 pass from Taylor (Congdon kick), 7:37.
Aub—Stewart 9 pass from Cox (Vaughn kick), :56.

Second Quarter Aub—Stewart 1 run (Vaughn kick), 12:22. Neb—B.Jackson 20 run (Congdon kick), 9

Third Quarter Aub—FG Vaughn 42, 6:20. A—66,777.

Team Statistics

	Aub	110
First downs	12	1
Rushes-yards	35-67	38-10
Passing	111	12
Comp-Att-Int	10-21-0	14-27-
Return Yards	55	2
Punts-Avg.	6-43.0	6-40.
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	1-
Penalties-Yards	6-45	4-4
Possession	27:00	33:0

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Auburn, K.Irons 24-72, Tate 4-23, Taylor 1-3, Stewart 1-1, Cox 5-(minus 32). Nebraska, Lucky 25-88, B.Jackson 7-38, Nunn 1-(minus 2), Taylor 4-(minus 5), Fodd 1-(minus 15).

Todd 1-{minus 15).

Passing: Auburn, Cox 10-21-0-111. Nebraska, Taylor 14-26-1-126, Team 0-1-0-0.

Receiving: Auburn, Taylor 6-70, Rodriguez 1-18, McKenzie 1-12, Stewart 1-9, Klrons 1-2. Nebraska, Lucky 6-67, Swift 3-44, B.Jackson 2-{minus 6}, Purify 1-9, Nunn 1-8,

No. 8 Southern Cal 32, No. 3 Michigan 18 First Quarter USC-FG Dan

Second Quarter Mich—FG Rivas 43, 13:35.

Third Quarter
USC—McFoy 2 pass from Booty (Danelo kick), 8:43.
USC—Jarrett 22 pass from Booty (kick failed), 5:17.
USC—FG Danelo 26, :48.

Fourth Quarter
Mich—Arrington 11 pass from Henne (Hart run), 13:25.
USC—Jarrett 62 pass from Booty (kick failed), 11:18.
USC—Smith 7 pass from Booty (Danelo kick), 6:52.
Mich—Breaston 41 pass from Henne (Rivas kick), 1:09.

Team Statistics First downs

	USC	Mich
First downs	21	19
Rushes-yards	23-48	27-12
Passing	391	309
Comp-Att-Int	27-45-0	26-41-1
Return Yards	17	0
Punts-Avg.	4-35.3	6-41.8
-umbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	3-27	2-20
Possession	30:02	29:58

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Southern Cal, Gable 13-25, Bradford 4-19,
C.Washington 2-8, Booty 4-(minus 4). Michigan, Hart 1747, Minor 2-3, Manningham 1-2, Henne 7-(minus 40).
Passing: Southern Cal, Booty 27-45-0-391. Henne 26-41-1-309.

Receiving: Southern Cal, Jarrett 11-205, Smith 7-108, Flavis 3-39, McFoy 2-24, Gable 2-(minus 3), Brittingham 1-14, Bradford 1-4. Michigan, Breaston 7-115, Manningham 6-79, Ecker 6-78, Arrington 4-34, Hart 2-(minus 2), Butler 1-5.

Late Sunday

Miami 21, Nevada 20

First Quarter Mia—Freeman 1 run (Peattie kick), 4:20. Nev—Safety, :05.

Second Quarter
Nev—Mitchell 27 pass from Rowe (run failed), 3:38.
Mia—Moore 52 pass from Freeman (Peattie kick), 1:46.
Nev—FG Jaekle 33, :05.

Third QuarterNev-FG Jaekle 31, 6:22.
Mia-Shields 78 pass from Freeman (Peattie kick), 5:59. Fourth Quarter Nev-FG Jaekle 44, 14:05. Nev-FG Jaekle 40, 9:25. A-28,652.

Team Statistics

rst downs	13	23
ıshes-yards	31-28	38-90
assing	272	207
omp-Att-Int	11-19-1	21-32-1
eturn Yards	(-7)	25
ınts-Avg.	6-39.5	6-37.3
ımbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
enalties-Yards	6-76	1-10
ossession	25:58	34:02

Individual Statistics Rushing: Miami, James 17-35, C.Jones 3-13, Shields 1-(minus 2), Freeman 10-(minus 18). Nevada, Hubbard 20-60, Rowe 12-37, McCoy 3-1, Lippincott 2-0, Graziano 1-

Passing: Miami, Freeman 11-19-1-272. Nevada, Rowe 20-

31-1-192, Graziano 1-1-0-15. **Receiving:** Miami, Shields 4-101, Moore 2-96, Olsen 2-45, James 2-27, Leggett 1-3. Nevada, Hubbard 7-50, Pudewell 4-51, Spencer 4-34, Bishop 3-25, McCoy 2-20, Mitchell 1-27.