

FLORIDA 21, TENNESSEE 20

Nowhere to run

Not enough in the end for fond memories

Memories of past Tennessee victories over Florida flashed through the night at Neyland Stadium.

James Wilhoit kicked a 51-yard field goal to give the Vols a 20-14 lead early in the fourth quarter. And when he did, you couldn't help but remember his game-winning 50-yarder against Florida two years ago.

The 1998 game also came to mind. UT managed only seven first downs and struggled terribly for every yard, but broke two big plays for touchdowns before eventually prevailing in overtime.

Florida had 100 more yards and nine more first downs

Saturday night. But UT seemed on the verge of pulling off just enough big plays to convince you it could upset the Gators.

First, there was a 48-yard touchdown pass from wide receiver Lucas Taylor to LaMarcus Coker. Then came the 29-yard pass from Erik Ainge to Jayson Swain to set up a 1-yard touchdown run by Montario Hardesty.

Those big pass plays and Wilhoit's long field goal would have been enough if UT's defense had lived up to its reputation.

That defense needed one more stop but couldn't get it. Instead, you had a couple of Florida quarterbacks making plays in a 65-yard touchdown drive that gave the Gators a 21-20 victory.

Freshman quarterback Tim Tebow, who's built like a linebacker, converted a fourth-and-1 proposition on a bullish 2-yard run to the UT 26-yard line. Two plays later, Chris Leak completed a 21-yard touchdown pass to a wide-open Dallas Baker.

UT had another chance. And Wilhoit almost had another chance.

But Florida's defense intervened. The Vols were

See **ADAMS** on VR5



Tennessee cornerback Demetric Morley walks off the field as Florida wide receiver Dallas Baker celebrates his game-winning touchdown catch with teammate Steve Risser on Saturday at Neyland Stadium. The Gators won 21-20.

AMY SMOTHERMAN-BURGESS/NEWS SENTINEL

Gators eat up Vols down the stretch

BY MIKE STRANGE
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For three and a half quarters Tennessee looked as if it might do the undoable Saturday night — beat Florida with no running game whatsoever.

Rushing bottom line for UT: 23 attempts, negative 11 yards.

In the end, those numbers were too much to overcome.

The No. 7 Gators rallied for a 21-20 victory over No. 13 Tennessee in a game that goes a long way toward defining the terms of the SEC Eastern Division race.

A Neyland Stadium crowd of 106,818 watched the Vols creep to a 17-7 lead midway through the third quarter.

But following a pattern from the California and Air Force games, they were outscored down the stretch.

"I don't think we let our foot off the gas pedal," said UT coach Phillip Fulmer. "Florida just rose to the occasion."

The Gators (3-0, 1-0 SEC) rose thanks to two touchdown passes from Chris Leak to Dallas Baker to give second-year coach Urban Meyer the biggest road win of his career.

The second Leak-to-Baker connection, a 21-yard TD pass, put Florida up 21-20 with 6:30 to play.

"This win shows our toughness, our composure and our senior leadership," said Leak. "It's great to be able to play in a hostile environment."

Fulmer, who fell to 5-10 against Florida, had praise for the Vols' effort, but not so much for their execution.

"There were a lot of plays that could have and should have been made," said Fulmer.

A couple of them might have saved the evening yet for the Vols (2-1, 0-1) as they tried to stage a rally of their own.

However, a one-dimensional offense was one dimension too few against Florida's defense.

Relying strictly on Erik Ainge's passing — 17-of-32 for 183 yards — Tennessee moved for a first down at the Florida 39 with 3:24 to play.

That's as close as the Vols got.

Blitzing linebacker Brandon Siler forced Ainge into an intentional-grounding penalty to avoid a sack.

The results were disastrous for UT — a 14-yard reversal and loss of down.

After an 8-yard completion to

See **VOLS** on VR5

SCOREBOARD

TOP 25

No. 1 Ohio State 37, Cincinnati 7
No. 11 Michigan 47, No. 2 Notre Dame 21
No. 3 Auburn 7, No. 6 LSU 3
No. 4 USC 28, No. 19 Nebraska 10
No. 7 Florida 21, No. 13 Tennessee 20

No. 8 Texas 52, Rice 7
Clemson 27, No. 9 Florida State 30
No. 10 Georgia 34, UAB 0
No. 12 Louisville 31, No. 17 Miami 7
No. 14 Virginia Tech 36, Duke 0
No. 18 Oregon 34, No. 15 Oklahoma 33

No. 16 Iowa 27, Iowa State 17
No. 20 TCU 12, No. 24 Texas Tech 3
No. 21 California 42, Portland State 16
No. 22 Arizona State 21, Colorado 3
No. 23 Boston College 30, BYU 23, OT
No. 25 Penn State 37, Youngstown St. 3

SEC

Arkansas 21, Vanderbilt 19
Kentucky 31, Ole Miss 14
Alabama 41, La.-Monroe 7
Tulane 32, Mississippi St. 29
South Carolina 27, Wofford 20

AREA

Carson-Newman 24, St. Augustine 14
Tusculum 28, Saint Paul's 0
Greensboro 39, Maryville 36, OT

■ College scores, summaries. **VR9**

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YOUR CALL

GoVolsXtra.com subscribers blog throughout the game with correspondent Josh Ward:

■ "Florida's players were heading to the midfield T, apparently to jump on it after pregame warmups. Officials stopped them. They did their jumping off to the side."

Dave Hooker
8:04 PM

■ "Well, not the best of starts. The interception give Florida pretty good field position. Let's see how the defense responds."

Josh Ward
8:13 PM

■ "Taylor to Coker?!?!?! As the other Ward would say, "Give him six!"

SAVol
9:13 PM

■ "Harrell appears to be experiencing pain on the sideline. He's seen a lot of snaps tonight and played very hard."

Josh Ward
9:35 PM

■ "Touchdown, Tennessee!!! Ainge is hot, and it's a good thing, because our running game is totally non-existent."

JUGHEAD
10:13 PM

■ "Six and 1/2 minutes to go and down 21-20. Let's see something from our offense. Go Vols!"

SAVol
11:06 PM

■ "HIS KNEE WAS DOWN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Chris
11:30 PM

■ "Can't run+can't stop run=can't win"

tenacjim
11:33 PM

STATISTICS

FLORIDA INDIVIDUAL

RUSHING

	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
DeShawn Wynn	22	106	2	104	0	26	4.7
Tim Tebow	7	29	0	29	0	10	4.1
Percy Harvin	1	12	0	12	0	12	12.0
Kestahn Moore	2	8	0	8	0	5	4.0
Team	2	0	5	-5	0	0	-2.5
Jemalle Cornelius	1	0	7	-7	0	0	-7.0
Chris Leak	6	13	33	-20	0	9	-3.3
Totals...	41	168	47	121	0	26	3.0

PASSING

	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Chris Leak	25-15-1	199	3	38	3
Totals...	25-15-1	199	3	38	3

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds	TD	Long
Dallas Baker	4	54	2	21
Andre Caldwell	4	50	0	25
Cornelius Ingram	2	40	0	38
Jemalle Cornelius	2	29	1	21
DeShawn Wynn	2	13	0	7
Percy Harvin	1	13	0	13
Totals...	15	199	3	38

PUNTING

	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Eric Wilbur	4	172	43.0	53	2	0
Totals...	4	172	43.0	53	2	0

ALL RETURNS

	Punts			Kickoffs			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Reggie Nelson	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
B. James	4	65	35	1	8	8	0	0	0
Totals...	4	65	35	1	8	8	2	0	0

PLACEKICKING

Field goals						
Chris Hetland		2nd	09:51	52 yds	Missed	
Chris Hetland		2nd	01:08	47 yds	Missed	
Kickoffs		No	Yds	TB	OB	Avg
J. Phillips		4	222	0	0	55.5

FUMBLES

None

DEFENSE

Player	Solo	Asst	Tot	TFL/Yds	FF	FR-Yd	Int	BU	Blk	Sack	QBH
Earl Everett	7	4	11								1
Brandon Siler	5	2	7	2.0-18						1.0/14	
Jarvis Moss	4	2	6	1.0-1							2
Tony Joiner	5		5								
Joe Cohen	2	3	5								
Brian Crum	4		4	1.0-1							
Ryan Smith	3	1	4								
M. Thomas	3		3	1.0-9						1.0/9	
Ray McDonald	2	1	3	1.0-1				1			1
T McCollum	2		2								
Derrick Harvey	2	2									
Reggie Lewis	2	2					2				
Dustin Doe	1		1								
John Curtis	1		1								
James Smith	1		1								
Jon. Phillips	1		1								
Drew Miller	1		1								
Riley Cooper	1		1								
Steven Harris	1		1								

SCORE BY QUARTERS

FLORIDA	7	0	7	7- 21
TENNESSEE	3	7	7	3- 20

TEAM

	FLA	UT
FIRST DOWNS	22	24
Rushing	11	1
Passing	10	11
Penalty	1	1
NET YARDS RUSHING	121	-11
Rushing Attempts	41	23
Average Per Rush	3.0	-0.5
Yards Gained Rushing	168	24
Yards Lost Rushing	47	35
NET YARDS PASSING	199	231
Completions-Attempts-Int	15-25-1	18-33-2
Average Per Attempt	8.0	7.0
Average Per Completion	13.3	12.8
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	320	220
Total offense plays	66	56
Average Gain Per Play	4.8	3.9
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	9-65	4-34
PUNTS-YARDS	4-172	4-193
Average Yards Per Punt	43.0	48.2
Net Yards Per Punt	41.2	32.0
Inside 20	2	0
50+ Yards	1	1
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	2	0
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-222	5-304
Average Yards Per Kickoff	55.5	60.8
Net Yards Per Kickoff	39.2	47.2
Touchbacks	0	3
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	4-65-0	1-7-0
Average Per Return	16.2	7.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-8-0	4-65-0
Average Per Return	8.0	16.2
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	2-0-0	1-20-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	35:04	24:56
1st Quarter	8:45	6:15
2nd Quarter	10:28	4:32
3rd Quarter	8:50	6:10
4th Quarter	7:01	7:59
Third-Down Conversions	6 of 13	6 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	0 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-1	2-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-23	3-32
PAT Kicks	3-3	2-2
Field Goals	0-2	2-2

TENNESSEE INDIVIDUAL

RUSHING

	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Montario Hardesty	17	20	6	14	1	5	0.8
Arian Foster	2	3	1	2	0	3	1.0
Erik Ainge	4	1	28	-27	0	1	-6.8
Totals...	23	24	35	-11	1	5	-0.5

PASSING

	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Erik Ainge	32-17-2	183	0	29	2
Lucas Taylor	1-1-0	48	1	48	0
Totals...	33-18-2	231	1	48	2

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds	TD	Long
Jayson Swain	6	77	0	29
Robert Meachem	4	47	0	24
Bret Smith	4	35	0	12
LaMarcus Coker	1	48	1	48
Montario Hardesty	1	16	0	16
Cory Anderson	1	4	0	4
Chris Brown	1	4	0	4
Totals...	18	231	1	48

PUNTING

	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Britton Colquitt	4	193	48.2	58	0	0
Totals...	4	193	48.2	58	0	0

ALL RETURNS

	Punts			Kickoffs			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Austin Rogers	0	0	0	1	12	12	0	0	0
J. Hefney	1	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elix Wilson	0	0	0	1	17	17	0	0	0
J. Wade	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	20
Lucas Taylor	0	0	0	2	36	19	0	0	0
Totals...	1	7	7	4	65	19	1	20	20

PLACEKICKING

Field goals						
James Wilhoit		1st	02:36	36 yds	Good	
James Wilhoit		4th	10:49	51 yds	Good	
Kickoffs		No	Yds	TB	OB	Avg
James Wilhoit		5	304	3	1	60.8

FUMBLES

None.

DEFENSE

Player	Solo	Asst	Tot	TFL/Yds	FF	FR-Yd	Int	BU	Blk	Sack	QBH
M Mitchell	13	2	15	1.0-1							2
Jerod Mayo	6	4	10	2.0-13						1.0/12	
Turk McBride	6	4	10	1.0-8						1.0/8	
J. Hefney	5	4	9					1			
Xavier Mitchell	3	5	8	2.0-13						1.0/12	1
Ryan Karl	6	1	7								
J Wade	4	1	5			1-20	2				
A. Reynolds	2	1	3								
Rico McCoy	2	1	3								
Justin Harrell	1	2	3								
A. Stewart	2		2								
Britton Colquitt	1		1								
Q. Hancock	1		1								
Ricardo Kemp	1		1								1
Robert Ayers	1		1	1.0-7							
J.T. Mapu	1		1								

HOW THEY SCORED

FIRST QUARTER

FLORIDA 7, TENNESSEE 0

UF-Jemalle Cornelius 21 pass from Chris Leak (Chris Hetland kick), 6:35.

Key plays-On third-and-1, DeShawn Wynn 3 run to UF 49; Percy Harvin 12 run to UT 39; Wynn 8 run to UT 31; Tim Tebow 10 run to UT 21.

Drive-Seven plays, 63 yards, 3:46.

FLORIDA 7, TENNESSEE 3

UT-James Wilhoit 36-yard field goal, 2:36.

Key plays-UT cornerback Jonathan Wade intercepts Chris Leak and returns 20 yards to UF 49; Robert Meachem 24 pass from scrambling Erik Ainge to UF 22; Meachem 8 pass from Ainge to UF 14; Ainge tripped up by own lineman loss of 5 to UF 19.

Drive-Six plays, 30 yards, 2:10.

UT31, Air Force 30

Tennessee defensive lineman Justin Harrell motions to the crowd while waiting on the California team to return to the field during the first half of the Sept. 2 game. Because of an injury, Harrell played his last game of the season Saturday night against Florida.

MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL



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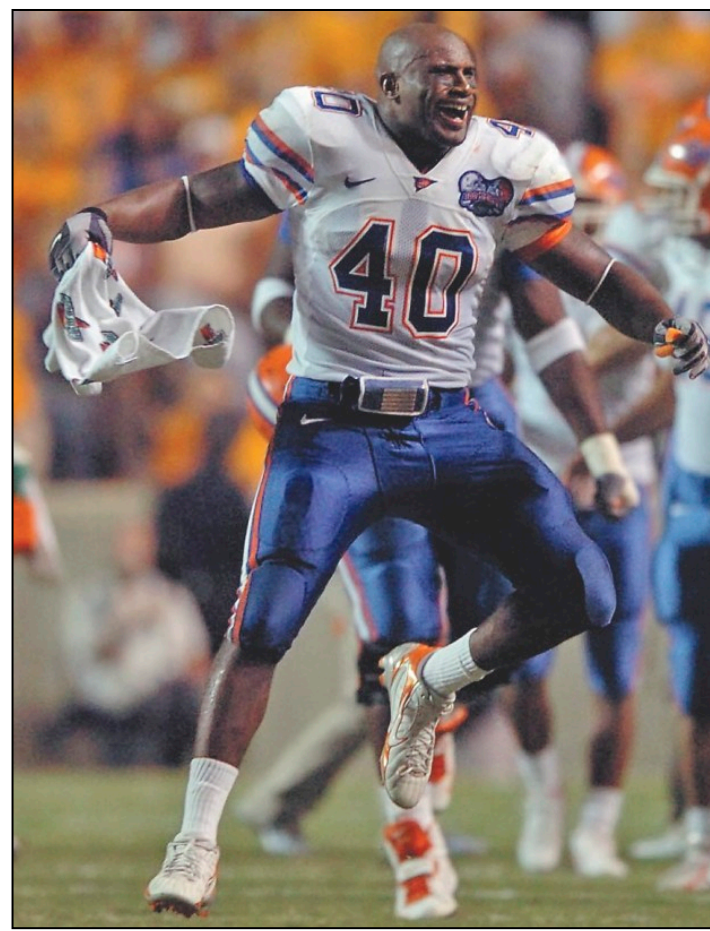


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Florida's Brandon Siler celebrates after a Florida first down kept the Gators' final drive alive. JEFF ADKINS/NEWS SENTINEL

Coaches credit Leak's toughness in comeback

Veteran quarterback finally gets a victory in his last trip to Neyland Stadium

BY MIKE GRIFFITH
knsgriff@aol.com

Florida quarterback Chris Leak wasn't perfect but he was tough, and "tough" was the operative word for the Gators as far as head coach Urban Meyer was concerned.

"That was a tough team out there tonight, they proved it," Meyer said, praising his players after their 21-20 victory over Tennessee Saturday night at Neyland Stadium. "We've challenged them, criticized them and put them in situations that only the tough can survive."

Leak, whose saga with the Vols started some six years ago when he showed interest in attending UT, did more than survive. He triumphed.

Leak was 15-for-25 passing for 199 yards, three touchdowns and an interception in the midst of a persistent Big Orange rush and a thunderous crowd.

"To get out of a game like this, someone had to make plays," Meyer said. "Chris had some adversity, you've got to give that team in orange some credit, but I thought Chris played very well."

Leak, who was sacked three times, knocked down five times and pressured on at least six other occasions, directed two key scoring drives to rally the Gators from a 17-7 third quarter deficit.

Both times, he found Dallas Baker to cap the drives, first on a 4-yard strike that brought Florida within 17-14 at the 1:16 mark of the third quarter, and finally, with 6:30 left, on a 21-yard TD throw across the field.

"When I rolled I was just reading the coverage," Leak said. "It had to do with whether they were in zone or man."

Dan Mullen, Florida's offensive coordinator, said the win over UT was a steppingstone for Leak.

"I think this was huge for him," Mullen said. "Chris can leave this field with confidence. We put a lot on him, and we needed him to manage the game the way he did."

Mullen said Florida left an extra blocker — sometimes two — in protection in an attempt to neutralize the Vols' pass rush.

"We tried to protect him," Mullen said. "But they still got a lot of pressure on us."

The fact Leak didn't waver had to do with experience, Meyer said.

"No one really panicked," said Meyer, whose Gators were 1-3 on the road last season. "Having a senior quarterback and a couple of senior wideouts was big."

So was having a running game.

DeShawn Wynn rushed for 104 yards on 22 carries, and eventually ran out the clock with a 6-yard burst against a UT defense stacked to stop the run.

Wynn indicated he, along with his teammates, fed off Leak's businesslike approach to the game.

"Chris is such a smooth guy," Wynn said. "He knows the game plan inside and out."

He's quite familiar with Neyland Stadium, too.

"I went to a lot of games here," said Leak, who changed his school of choice after his older brother, C.J., was pulled early in UT's 2002 loss at Georgia in favor of James Banks. "But the thing I'll take from this is learning to play in a hostile environment."

C.J. Leak, recently signed to play tight end for the Buffalo Bills, wore a smile at the end of the Gators' tunnel.

"I was proud of Chris," C.J. Leak said. "Anytime you can win on this field, it's big. Tennessee is a real good team. I wouldn't be surprised if they went 11-1."

"My family knows I'm going to cheer for them in every game except one. The people and fans in Knoxville were great to me and I had a good experience here."

Chris Leak becomes the only QB in Florida history to win in Knoxville, against Georgia, in Tallahassee and win a bowl game.

Slam Bang: Meyer said a key to the power running was a formation using Jason Watkins, a 6-foot-6, 307-pound tackle, as a tight end.

"We ran behind the best side of our line," Meyer said. "We put Watkins at tight end and felt we could dent the line."

Obviously, freshman quarterback Tim Tebow was also big.

Tebow converted on second-and-2 (10-yard run) on the opening scoring drive, along with third-and-3 (4 yards), third-and-2 (3 yards) and fourth-and-1 (2 yards) opportunities, finishing with 29 yards on seven carries.

"Tim Tebow is tough; that's 230 pounds," Meyer said. "He'll find a way to get in there."

Shotgun: Meyer said he used more shotgun formations to neutralize the effect of the crowd noise.

"With the crowd noise here, the tailbacks can't hear you," Meyer said. "I was very concerned with that, so we went to the shotgun."

Lost opportunities on defense

Injured Harrell thanks fans in his final game

BY MARK BURGESS
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Justin Harrell had to take about 45 minutes to compose himself Saturday night.

He sat at his locker thinking about the past, about the future and thinking about what might have been.

Tennessee's senior defensive tackle then walked into the post-game interview room at Neyland Stadium knowing he was going to have to answer the tough questions.

How does it feel to have played your last game in a Tennessee uniform?

How does it feel to lose 21-20 to archrival Florida?

Harrell's career is finished after suffering a ruptured left bicep against Air Force and opting to delay surgery until next week.

"I want to thank the coaches, the players and the whole team," Harrell said. "In particular, I want to thank the fans for all the support they gave me this week. It was a special day to be able to play."

"I was glad I was able to play the whole game. I just wish the outcome had been better."

On the JumboTron during pregame, there was a picture of Harrell and the words "Thank You Justin."

On the walls surrounding Shields-Watkins Field, there were signs with Harrell's number and Inky Johnson's number interlocking with the word team.

Johnson was in the pressbox after suffering a possible career-ending injury to his shoulder a week ago.

Harrell, a preseason All-SEC first-team selection, finished his final game at UT with three tackles.

Senior linebacker Marvin Mitchell had his best game in a Tennessee uniform with a team-high 15 tackles, including 13 solos.

Linebacker Jerod Mayo and tackle Turk McBride, moved back inside from end, each added 10 apiece.

"I think we were the more



Tennessee defensive tackle Justin Harrell, right, leaves Shields-Watkins field Saturday night with assistant coach Dan Brooks. AMY SMOTHERMAN-BURGESS/NEWS SENTINEL

physical team," Mayo said after Tennessee let a 17-7 lead slip away and Florida scored the game-winning TD with 6:30 remaining.

"I felt like we outplayed them in every aspect of the game. It's just one of those games that slips away from you."

Defensive coordinator John Chavis pointed to a couple of key plays as difference makers.

One came on a second-and-22 situation late in the third quarter when Florida quarterback Chris Leak connected with Andre Caldwell for 25 yards as the Gators went on to score and trim the lead to 17-14.

The other came on fourth-and-1 on Florida's eventual game-winning drive when Tim Tebow rushed for 2 yards and another first down.

"We had opportunities to stop

those drives, but we just didn't get it done," Chavis said. "We'll look at the film and go to work to get better."

Still, the talk eventually came back around to Harrell.

Defensive end Robert Ayers had Harrell's No. 92 on the patches under his eyes. They were there long after the game was finished.

Ayers showed some emotion when talking about the impact of Harrell.

"It was more than enough inspiration," he said. "Justin's a great person away from the football field."

"He's like a brother to all of us. He took me under his wing and taught me a lot of things about the game I never would have learned without him. I just wish he could have gone out the way

he wanted to."

Defensive tackle coach Dan Brooks had a hard time putting into words what Harrell's presence meant on the field Saturday night.

"I think what he showed to our football team was an unbelievable amount of mental and physical toughness," he said. "He gave everything he had for Tennessee."

UT coach Phillip Fulmer gathered the entire team in the locker room and expressed his thanks to Harrell.

"His five years here have been special, but his thing is the next 50 years and what he's going to do," he said. "Pro football is probably in his future, but that doesn't define Justin Harrell."

"He's a great person and he'll be successful in whatever he does."

Ainge fails to turn page, completion

BY DAVE HOOKER
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VOLS NOTEBOOK

Florida struggled to cover Tennessee's receivers, until it mattered most.

UT's receivers caught 14 passes for 159 yards, but it was their inability to get open on the Vols' final drive that proved to be their undoing Saturday night in a 21-20 loss to Florida at Neyland Stadium.

After an intentional grounding call, the Vols had two plays to pick up 16 yards for the first down. Both attempts resulted in incomplete passes that had little, if any, chance to be successful.

"Anytime you're fourth-and-14, 15, whatever it was, against a group of athletes like Florida has it's going to be tough," junior quarterback Erik Ainge said.

UT didn't think short on the third-down play. The Vols seemed intent on picking up all of the yardage in one play. Ainge's pass was thrown among three Gators to the short side of the field as he tried to force the ball into the hands of junior receiver Robert Meachem.

"We had (senior receiver) Bret (Smith) and Meachem running corner routes and I liked the match-up with Meachem better," Ainge said. "It was into the boundary so you have less room. That's the risk you take."

Ainge's second desperation pass was even less effective. Meachem never even looked for the fourth-down pass that was intercepted by Florida defensive back Reggie Nelson.

"I tried to sneak one into Meach," Ainge said, "and we just weren't on the same page."

Upon the change of possession, Florida was able to run out the clock. The sudden ending had to surprise Ainge, who said he was confident the Vols could retake the lead after Florida's late touchdown.

"We moved the ball on them all night long despite some things that we weren't doing very well," Ainge said. "I was confident. I've done it against Florida before in the fourth quarter to win. It was

the same kind of thing.

"We just got ourselves in a bad situation and didn't get it done."

Surprise Attack: Receiver Lucas Taylor's touchdown pass to LaMarcus Coker in the second quarter was the first scoring pass thrown by a non-quarterback since Derrick Tinsley turned the trick against Georgia in 2002.

Tinsley, who played wide receiver and running back, threw a 5-yard pass to Jason Witten.

Shaky Special Teams: UT had two special teams miscues against the Gators. Sophomore receiver Austin Rogers called a fair catch at the UT6 in the first quarter. Florida freshman Brandon James returned a punt from the 17-yard line to the UT 48.

James also had a long touch-

down punt return called back because of an illegal block behind him.

Make Up Call: James didn't have to stew over the call long. The Vols also caught the officials' wrath on the next play.

Senior middle linebacker Marvin Mitchell had an apparent interception for a touchdown until junior defensive tackle J.T. Mapu was called for roughing the passer.

"I thought I was in good position to make a play," Mapu said. "It just wasn't the case."

Mapu admitted that he hit Florida quarterback Chris Leak fairly hard but contended he was only swinging his arm at the ball just as Leak was throwing.

"I was trying to bat it down and make a play," Mapu said.

Tebow Time: Sophomore linebacker Jerod Mayo said UT's de-

fense was ready for Florida freshman quarterback Tim Tebow. Tebow never even handed the ball off when he was in the game. He only ran, often on key short-yardage downs.

Tebow played seven snaps and carried the ball for 29 yards.

"We knew he wasn't going to throw the ball," Mayo said. "We knew he was just going to sit back there and run but he's a pretty big guy. He's kind of hard to take down."

No Way: The Gators were headed to midfield as they concluded pregame warm ups, apparently to jump on the "T" insignia. Officials quickly stepped in. Florida's players jumped up and down just outside the midfield emblem.

Injury Report: Linebacker Elix Wilson and Rogers both suffered shoulder injuries. Rogers' injury is not thought to be serious.

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Running game grounded; UT finishes at minus-11

BY DREW EDWARDS
edwardsd@knews.com

Tennessee's 21-20 loss to Florida can be described by one statistic. You know, the stat.

It's the one that reads like gospel in this series, at least from the Vols' perspective.

In case you didn't see it on television or hear it on the radio this week, the team that rushes for more yards when Florida and Tennessee meet each year has won 14 times in the last 16 games.

Saturday, it became 15 of the last 17. Tennessee, which falls to 2-1 and 0-1 in the SEC, has never won when failing to outrush the Gators (3-0, 1-0).

Like always, the Vols came into the game expecting to run the ball.

Even with starter Arian Foster getting just two carries because of a gimpy left ankle, Tennessee had confidence in backup running back Montario Hardesty.

The results on the ground didn't meet expectations.

"We go in every week thinking we can run the football," senior offensive tackle Arron Sears said. "I'm not sure how many yards we had rushing. I'm pretty sure it wasn't much."

The Vols ran 23 times. They gained 24 yards. They lost 35.

That's minus-11 yards, the lowest output in Phillip Fulmer's 14 seasons as head coach at Tennessee.

The math isn't difficult. The realization that Tennessee couldn't get anything going on the ground was.

"It's very frustrating," guard David Ligon said. "We were like one man away every time from breaking it."

"We didn't."

The Gators did. DeShawn Wynn carried 22 times for 104 yards. Backup quarterback Tim Tebow averaged 4.1 yards on his sev-

en carries. All told, the Gators had 121 yards on the ground.

Tennessee's longest rushing play was a 5-yard run by Hardesty in the first half. The lion's share of the credit belongs to Florida's stellar defensive front.

"They're on scholarship, too," receiver Jayson Swain said.

Said Sears: "They had nice movement up front with their front four. We just couldn't collect them."

At halftime, that front held the Vols to minus-8 yards rushing.

Tennessee's first touchdown came when receiver Lucas Taylor hit a wide-open LaMarcus Coker for a 48-yard touchdown.

Not only was it Tennessee's longest play, it was far and away the best thing a running back did all game.

A 1-yard touchdown run by Hardesty on the Vols' first possession of the second half made the lead 17-7 with 8:40 remaining in the third quarter.

Even that touchdown took the Vols three tries to run in.

As late as the fourth quarter, Tennessee held the lead and seemed poised to win for the first time without topping Florida in the run game.

James Wilhoit's 51-yard field goal gave UT a six-point lead with fewer than 11 minutes remaining.

On that drive, though, Hardesty was stuffed on a pair of run plays at the Gators' 34.

Quarterback Erik Ainge, who finished a respectable 17-of-32 for 183 yards despite two interceptions, missed tight end Chris Brown on third down.

In some ways, that was one of Tennessee's most telling three-play stretches.

"If you run the ball well, then it makes throwing the ball easier," Ainge said before citing the stat. "That's 15 of the last 17 games that the team that rushes the ball (better) wins."

"That's not a statement that should be taken lightly."

It wasn't, at least for Ligon.

"I think I can speak for all the offensive linemen. We lost the game tonight," he said. "Our receivers and quarterbacks, our defense fought their butts off."

"But as an O-line, we didn't do our job."

Receiver Jayson Swain, who set up the Vols' final touchdown with a 29-yard reception, didn't go that far.

"We win as a team, lose as team," he said. "This is no offense, no defense, no special-teams thing."

"Whenever you can't be balanced, it hurts you in the SEC. We'll go to the drawing board, we'll get better and I'm pretty sure our coaching staff will do something to change that."

Drew Edwards covers University of Tennessee football. He may be reached at 865-342-6274.

VOLS

from VR1

Bret Smith, Ainge misfired while looking for Robert Meachem to bring up 4th-and-16 at the Florida 45.

Not close enough to try a game-winning field goal by James Wilhoit, Tennessee had to risk it all.

"We needed about 8 yards for him to have another shot," Fulmer said.

Ainge's pass was intercepted by Florida's Reggie Nelson with 2:47 left and the Gators ran out the clock.

Florida, winning in Knoxville for the fifth time in its past seven tries, outgained UT 330 yards to 220.

Tennessee resorted to trickery to get its first touchdown — a 48-yard pass from receiver Lucas Taylor to running back LaMarcus Coker.

The other was a 1-yard dive by Montario Hardesty.

Florida dominated the stats more than it did the scoreboard.

DeShawn Wynn rushed for 104 yards and Leak passed for 199 and three touchdowns.

The Gators got on the scoreboard on their second possession, moving 63 yards in seven plays for a 21-yard touchdown pass from Leak to Jemelle Cornelius.

It took a defensive play to spark UT's sputtering offense.

Jonathan Wade's interception and 20-yard return gave the Ainge & Co. field position at the Florida 49.

Consecutive completions to Meachem reached the Florida 22, but Ainge tripped coming away from center and fell for a 5-yard loss.

Consequently, UT had to settle for a 36-yard Wilhoit field goal and a 7-3 deficit.

After Florida's Chris Hetland missed a 52-yard field-goal try, Tennessee forged into the lead.

The Vols took over at their 36 and a pass to Smith gave Tennessee a rare third-down conversion and a foothold at the Florida 48.

Enter Taylor and Coker.

Taylor lined up wide, swung around for a handoff from Ainge and fired to a wide-open Coker at the Florida 25 on the other side of the field.

Coker beat the pursuit to the goal line and UT led 10-7.

The only other memorable



Tennessee's Montario Hardesty (2) dives over the Florida line to score a touchdown in the third quarter Saturday night at Neyland Stadium. Hardesty rushed 17 times for 14 yards.

sequence of the second quarter was back-to-back touchdowns being wiped out by penalties.

First, Florida's Brandon James took a Britton Colquitt punt 89 yards for an apparent score, only to be nullified by an illegal-block penalty.

On Florida's first snap, from the Florida 22, UT linebacker Marvin Mitchell picked off a poorly thrown Leak pass and raced to the end zone.

All for nothing. A roughing-the-passer flag against Tennessee's J.T. Mapu negated the score and gave Florida a first down.

The Gators advanced far

enough for Hetland to attempt a 47-yard field goal but he was off the mark again.

In the third quarter, Tennessee broke through with a 29-yard Ainge completion to Jayson Swain for first-and-goal at the 1.

Scoring from there was no gimme, considering Tennessee's AWOL rushing game.

It took Hardesty three tries, but he found a sliver of an opening on the third and UT led 17-7.

Hardesty finished with 14 yards on 17 attempts in his first start.

Florida cut it to 17-14 when

Leak hit Baker from 4 yards out with 1:16 left in the third quarter.

Wilhoit connected on his second field goal, a 51-yarder, to give the Vols a 20-14 lead with 10:49 to play.

The Gators answered by reeling off another sustained drive against a wilting Tennessee defense.

Leak found Baker again for the 21-yard touchdown to make it 20-20. Hetland's PAT was the game-deciding point. "This will give us a good

film study," said Fulmer, "and this is not the only good defense we're going to play."

Florida gets a good film study and a definitive victory.

"I'm not sure you can call (the team) not-tough more than we have," said Meyer. "We challenged them and they answered it."

"I'd have to say we're a fairly tough football team."

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

SEC STANDINGS

EAST

School	SEC W-L	Overall W-L
Georgia	1-0	3-0
Florida	1-0	3-0
Kentucky	1-0	2-1
S. Carolina	1-1	2-1
Tennessee	0-1	2-1
Vanderbilt	0-2	0-3

WEST

School	SEC W-L	Overall W-L
Auburn	2-0	3-0
Alabama	1-0	3-0
Arkansas	1-0	2-1
LSU	0-1	2-1
Ole Miss	0-1	1-2
Miss. State	0-2	0-3

Saturday's results

Florida 21, Tennessee 20
Arkansas 21, Vanderbilt 19
Georgia 34, UAB 0
Auburn 7, LSU 3
Kentucky 31, Ole Miss 14
Alabama 41, La.-Monroe 7
Tulane 32, Mississippi St. 29
South Carolina 27, Wofford 20

Saturday's games

Marshall at Tennessee, 4 p.m.
(Pay-per-view)
Colorado at Georgia, 12:30
Buffalo at Auburn, 2:30
Alabama at Arkansas, 3:30 (WVLT)
Wake Forest at Ole Miss, 6
Mississippi State at UAB, 7
Fla. Atlantic at South Carolina, 7
Tennessee St. at Vanderbilt, 7

2006 SCHEDULE

September
Sept. 2 — California, W 35-18
Sept. 9 — Air Force, W 31-30
Saturday — Florida, L 21-20
23 — Marshall (HC), 4 (PPV)
30 — at Memphis

October
7 — at Georgia
21 — Alabama
28 — at South Carolina

November
4 — LSU
11 — at Arkansas
18 — at Vanderbilt
25 — Kentucky

ADAMS

from VR1

closing in on Wilhoit's range at the Florida 39 when the Gators demonstrated their dominance.

Linebacker Brandon Siler blitzed past UT blockers to sack Ainge, who was called for intentional grounding on the play.

Remind you of anything? Hint: It had nothing to do with UT's national championship season in 1998 or its come-from-behind victory over the Gators two years ago.

The play was right out of a UT 2005 low-light video. Two plays later, the Vols produced another 2005 flashback.

Ainge tried to connect with wide receiver Robert Meachem, who might as well

have been jogging through a park. Meachem had his back to the ball when Reggie Nelson made the interception at the Florida 24.

The Vols never got the ball again. And the way their last series unraveled, another possession hardly would have been cause for optimism in the face of a defense that held UT to minus-11 yards rushing, intercepted two passes and sacked Ainge twice.

No one should confuse these Vols with last year's 5-6 team. They play harder and smarter. Offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe has built a more efficient offense, and Ainge is much-improved at quarterback.

But based on what you've seen, you shouldn't confuse this team with UT's former East Division champions, either.

Sure, the Vols were

dominant in their opening-season victory over a Cal team that seemed bewildered by the whole Neyland Stadium experience. But in the last two weeks, you have seen UT blow a 10-point lead to Florida and almost blow a two-touchdown lead against Air Force.

A defense that wilted in the fourth quarter against Air Force and Florida must play the rest of the season without injured starters Inky Johnson and Justin Harrell. The team now must play catch-up in a division race that has it behind both Florida and Georgia.

And you saw how it looked playing catch-up against the Gators.

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

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KINGSTON PIKE

Ferocious battle of Tigers: It's Auburn, 7-3

LSU's desperation drive comes up four yards short

Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Eric Brock's instructions were simple and altogether appropriate for the final play of Auburn's latest slugfest with LSU.

"The coaches told us anything we see in front of us, you hit it," the Auburn safety said.

Brock's game-saving tackle just a few yards from the goal line on the final play preserved No. 3 Auburn's 7-3 win over sixth-ranked LSU on Saturday. He also tipped away a fourth-down pass to end another late LSU threat as Auburn turned away the visiting Tigers again and again.

What has become the SEC's most rugged rivalry had all the usual elements: two punishing defenses, an pivotal officials' call that left both sides a bit perplexed and some follies in the kicking game.

The call went Auburn's way.

With LSU facing fourth-and-8 from Auburn's 31 and 2:43 left, JaMarcus Russell fired the ball to Early Doucet near the goal line. A diving Brock deflected the pass, but Zach Gilbert was called for pass interference that would have kept the drive alive.

The officials overturned the call, although replays showed the contact came before the ball was tipped by Brock.



Auburn's Courtney Taylor goes up to catch a pass against LSU defenders John Vaught and Danny Perry (31). Auburn defeated LSU 7-3 on Saturday.

"I got sick to my stomach," said Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville about seeing the flag. "I still don't understand it. It's just a judgment call and thank goodness it went our way."

LSU coach Les Miles wasn't happy with the change.

"If the ball is tipped at the line of scrimmage, there is no pass interference," said Miles, also unhappy with a pass interference call against his team. "The ball was tipped downfield. The proper explanation will be forthcoming."

Auburn (3-0, 2-0) got the ball but LSU's defense stopped Kenny Irons on three consecutive runs.

The visiting Tigers (2-1, 0-1) drove to Auburn's 24 with 2.5 seconds left as Russell hooked up with Craig Davis for gains of 20 and 21 yards and Dwayne Bowe

for 21. On the final play, Russell went to Davis again. The receiver caught the pass inside the 10, but Brock stopped him cold with a jarring hit at the 4.

"It was a low throw on the final play, but it was not JaMarcus' fault," Davis said. "I was expecting it to be a jump ball in the end zone."

Only then could Auburn fans celebrate, their national title hopes healthy. The win, coupled with No. 2 Notre Dame's 47-21 loss to Michigan, could push Auburn up to No. 2 in the rankings.

"This was a statement game right here," Auburn cornerback David Irons said. "It let everyone know we're for real."

The defense certainly is. LSU had five drives inside Auburn territory end with no points in the lowest scoring game at Auburn since 1973.

It's the first time since 1972 these teams have met with both ranked in the top 10 lived up to its billing — mostly thanks to a pair of blitzing defenses.

"It was a very violent game," Tuberville said. "There was more speed than I've seen on the field in a long time. It's hard to find a loser in that game."

"Our guys played like champions. When you look at the score and the stats, everybody would think it was a boring game but there was a lot of excitement."

Auburn's hoping recent history repeats itself. Five times in the last six years, the winner of this game has won the Western Division title.

Georgia's defense puts up another zero

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — The way Georgia's defense is playing, Matthew Stafford can take his time learning what it takes to be a successful college quarterback.

The freshman scored his first touchdown in a winning debut as the Bulldogs' starter Saturday, but it was the guys on the other side of the line that made sure there wasn't any pressure on the youngster.

Georgia's defense posted its second consecutive shutout — the first time that's happened since 1980 — in a 34-0 rout of Alabama-Birmingham.

"Those boys are playing lights out," center Nick Jones said. "We see them in practice every day, so we know they're good. Back-to-back shutouts just shows everybody else how good they are."

The special teams aren't so bad, either.

C.J. Byrd scooped up a blocked punt and returned it 12 yards to the end zone midway through the third quarter, which gave Georgia (3-0) a 20-point lead and essentially finished off a team that couldn't muster anything offensively.

Brandon Coult kicked two more field goals, including a 55-yarder. He's 7-for-7 this season.

That made things easy for Stafford, who completed 10 of 17 passes for 107 yards and powered into the end zone on a 4-yard run in the fourth quarter. He broke a couple of tackles and dove across with another defender wrapped around his feet.

"There wasn't any big stress or big burden on me," said Stafford, who took over the No. 1 job after senior Joe Tereshinski went down the previous week with a severely sprained ankle.

After beginning the season with a surprisingly close 24-17 loss at Oklahoma, UAB (1-2) managed 163 yards against a defense that shut out South Carolina 18-0 last week.

The Bulldogs opened with a 48-12 victory over Western Kentucky, giving up a field goal in the closing minutes.

"This is the best team I have played in quite a while," UAB coach Watson Brown said. "They just physically dominated us at times."

Georgia's last back-to-back shutouts were 41-0 over Vanderbilt and 27-0 over Kentucky in 1980 on the way to a national championship.

"If we continue to play defense and special teams the way we are, and we get a little better on offense," coach Mark Richt said.

Alabama fires on all cylinders, 41-7

Associated Press

John Parker Wilson threw for 210 yard and two touchdown passes in Alabama's best offensive performance of the season and the Crimson Tide beat Louisiana-Monroe 41-7 on Saturday in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

A week after the Crimson Tide (3-0) barely beat Vanderbilt, Wilson completed 13 of 21 passes without an interception against the Warhawks (1-2).

Wilson had scoring throws of 43 yards to D.J. Hall and 17 yards to LeRon McClain.

Darby, who struggled to get into the open during the first two games but was the Tide's leading rusher last year, ran for a season-high 79 yards on 14 rushes.

Tim Castille scored on a 3-yard run, and Keith Brown caught five passes for 82 yards for Alabama, which had 444 yards offense.

South Carolina 27, Wofford 20: Cory Boyd tied a school-record with three rushing touchdowns, and the Gamecocks (2-1) escaped with a win over the Division I-AA Terriers.

Quarterback Syvelle Newton looked in control in his first start under center since 2004. Newton replaced the suspended Blake Mitchell.

Josh Collier's 25-yard TD pass to Andy Strickland drew the Terriers to 27-20 with 4:43 left.

Wofford had one last chance, driving to South Carolina's 10 with 29 seconds to go. On fourth-and-5, the Gamecocks' Dakota Walker knocked Collier's pass attempt into the air and linebacker Cody Wells intercepted.

Boyd had scoring runs of 10, 1 and 40 yards in the opening half to tie the school record of TD runs in a game last accomplished by Dondrial Pinkins against Vanderbilt in 2003.

Tulane 32, Mississippi St. 29: Lester Ricard completed 16 of 23 passes for 298 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Green Wave in Starkville, Miss.

The Bulldogs (0-3) ended an offensive drought, scoring their first points of the season but falling short of a victory.

The Green Wave led 14-7 at halftime, but put together a three-play, 76-yard drive on their first possession of the second half. Ricard found Gabe Ratcliff open down the sideline for a 55-yard completion, setting up Demarcus Davis for a 6-yard score.

Tulane scored three times in the third quarter — twice on Bulldogs turnovers — sealing the

Gust takes wind out of Vanderbilt

48-yard field goal falls short; Arkansas able to escape, 21-19

By Teresa M. Walker

Associated Press

NASHVILLE — A gust of wind at the wrong time for Vanderbilt helped Houston Nutt celebrate his 100th game at Arkansas in winning style.

Freshman Mitch Mustain threw for 224 yards and three touchdowns, leading Arkansas past Vanderbilt 21-19 Saturday in the Razorbacks' first road game this season.

Vanderbilt (0-3, 0-2 SEC) had a chance to upset the Razorbacks for a second straight year by scoring in the final minute. But Bryant Hahnfeldt's 48-yard field-goal attempt with 55 seconds left fell a couple yards short on fourth-and-2.

"Believe it or not, actually, the wind picked up just a little bit right before he kicked it," Vandy coach Bobby Johnson said. "I swear, it picked up. You can't plan on that. You can't control that. I wish I could. I'd be undefeated."

Nutt thought the kick was good as he

watched it fly through the air. Instead, his Razorbacks got to head home with a victory.

"If he would have hit it, it would have been like last year and the defense would have lost it again," Arkansas defensive tackle Keith Jackson said of a 28-24 loss to Vanderbilt last year in Fayetteville. "But I'm just happy it came up short, and we came out with the victory."

Hahnfeldt said he guesses the wind came up a bit after Arkansas called a timeout.

"There was no doubt in my mind (it was good)," he said. "It was one of the better kicks I had all day. I got up, and even started celebrating, me and Mackenzi (Adams), the holder, and all of a sudden, the wind just killed it."

That allowed the Razorbacks (2-1, 1-0) to help Nutt improve to 95-63 overall, 59-41 since taking over in 1998, and win Arkansas' first trip to Nashville since 1995.

"We are fortunate to win, but we are very, very happy," Nutt said.

The Commodores wouldn't have needed the field goal if not for trouble on extra points.

Kentucky ambushes error-prone Ole Miss

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Myron Pryor's toe kept him out of Kentucky's last game. His fingers kept his team in this one.

The 300-pound sophomore defensive tackle, coming back from turf toe that sidelined him nearly two weeks, caused three key turnovers as Kentucky defeated Mississippi 31-14 Saturday in the SEC opener.

"This game was a big turning point for me," Pryor said.

The Wildcats, too. Every time the Rebels threatened to chip into Kentucky's lead, Pryor seemed to have an answer. He nabbed an interception, forced a fumble and recovered another, each stopping drives dead

in their tracks.

Kentucky won its first SEC opener in 19 years. With the Wildcats moving to 2-1 overall on the season, it also marks the first time in coach Rich Brooks' three-plus seasons in charge Kentucky has been above .500.

"Small step, big step, medium step — I don't know," Brooks said. "But it's a step in the right direction."

Although Pryor was the one making the strides on the defensive side of the ball, a familiar face was doing it on offense. Dicky Lyons Jr., son of the former Kentucky standout by the same name, grabbed his fifth and sixth touchdown catches of the year.

"This has to be a pretty big story in col-

lege football," Brooks said. "The guy has six touchdown catches in three games. That's as many as Andre' threw last year and he's thrown six of them to one guy in the first three games."

Woodson had 290 yards and his second-consecutive three-touchdown game.

Freshman kicker Lones Seiber, the former Central High kicker, tried his first field goal since winning the starting job this week. He, had his 37-yard attempt blocked as time expired in the first half. Seiber would hit a 41-yard field goal in the fourth quarter.

The Rebels turned over the ball five times, compared to only once for Kentucky.

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Michigan get best of Notre Dame, 47-21

Wolverines stop two losing streaks with rout

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Take that, Notre Dame.

No. 11 Michigan finally put a Big Blue bruising on the second-ranked Fighting Irish in a 47-21 rout Saturday — the most points scored against Notre Dame at home in 46 years.

"They deserve their just due," Irish coach Charlie Weis said. "I think it's important to understand that team just came and whupped us pretty good."

Indeed they did. Chad Henne threw three touchdown passes to Mario Manningham, and Michigan intercepted Brady Quinn three times, forced him to fumble and shut down the rest of the Irish offense.

Michigan ended a two-game losing streak against the Irish and a three-game slide at Notre Dame Stadium. The win likely silenced doubters who questioned Michigan after a 7-5 season and two less-than-impressive wins to open this season.

"This was going to be our big test," said LaMarr Woodley, who returned a fumble 54 yards for a touchdown. "We passed the test today."

Prescott Burgess intercepted Quinn on the second play of the game to set the tone. Michigan (3-0) was ahead 26-7 before the Irish (2-0) had their initial first



Michigan linebacker LaMarr Woodley stiff-arms Notre Dame tight end John Carlson while on his way to 54-yard touchdown run with a fumble recovery in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game in South Bend, Ind.

MICHAEL CONROY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

down. The 47 points were second only to the 51 scored at Notre Dame by Purdue in 1960.

"They stopped us in the passing game. They stopped us in the running game. They beat our defense. They really just beat our complete team," Irish tailback

Darius Walker said. "It was a complete team loss."

The win had to be a relief for Michigan coach Lloyd Carr. He's been under

fire for failing to win big games the past two seasons — twice in bowl games, and twice each to Notre Dame and Ohio State. Carr, 4-1 against No. 2 teams and 16-6 against top-10 teams.

"When you can win against a rival like that, believe me, it's special, because it's hard," Carr said.

For Notre Dame, the loss was another setback on its road to restore its storied program. In 2000, there was a 41-9 loss to Oregon State in the Fiesta Bowl when the Irish were No. 10; three years ago it was a 38-0 loss to Michigan; and last year it was a 34-20 loss to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl when the Irish were ranked No. 4.

Weis said he never saw a rout coming.

"I was surprised that we collectively, from me on down, laid an egg," he said. "I expected us to have a better performance."

Quinn, who has never had a big game against Michigan, struggled again. Touted as the Heisman Trophy favorite, he was just 3-of-13 passing for 14 yards before going 7-of-7 for 71 yards.

"With as many mistakes we made as a team, I don't think anybody would have overcome that," Quinn said.

Carr said the Wolverines dealt with a difficult offseason well, now it's time to see how they deal with some prosperity.

"Our challenge now is to understand that you got to get ready to play every week," he said.

Louisville rips Miami, loses Brohm

Associated Press

Miami started the day by stomping on the Louisville Cardinal logo in the middle of field. That might be that last sign of swagger the Hurricanes show for a while.

Three hours later, it was the Louisville fans on the field after one of the biggest wins in school history.

No. 12 Louisville dominated No. 17 Miami 31-7 on Saturday, gaining the signature win it's been searching for under coach Bobby Petrino even as the Cardinals (3-0) lost another Heisman Trophy hopeful to injury.

Quarterback Brian Brohm dislocated the thumb on his right (throwing) hand in the third quarter and will miss three to six weeks. He threw for 181 yards and a touchdown before giving way to backup quarterback Hunter Cantwell, who finished off the Hurricanes with 113 yards and a TD pass.

"I think it just shows how deep we are and how much talent we have," said Brohm, who expects to be back by the time the Cardinals host No. 5 West Virginia on Nov. 2.

Miami fell to 1-2 for the first time since 1997 and will probably find itself out of the rankings for the first time since 1999 when the new poll comes out Sunday.

"Well it was pretty obvious today we were embarrassed," Miami coach Larry Coker said. "Our players are embarrassed. Our coaches are embarrassed. We thoroughly got whipped."

The Cardinals already had lost one Heisman Trophy contender for the season, when run-

ning back Michael Bush broke his leg in the season opener.

Kolby Smith, one of a committee of backs used to replace Bush, ran for two touchdowns as Louisville beat a ranked opponent from a Bowl Championship Series conference for the first time since 2002.

Virginia Tech 36, Duke 0: Sean Glennon and Virginia Tech's offense started slow again, but the No. 14 Hokies' fly-to-the-ball defense was again more than capable of shouldering the load against the visiting Blue Devils (0-3).

The Hokies (3-0) had more points than Duke had total yards after Glennon's second touchdown pass, a 25-yarder to Josh Morgan midway through the third quarter.

Texas 52, Rice 7: Texas had no trouble rebounding from last week's loss to Ohio State as Colt McCoy and the eighth-ranked Longhorns (2-1) rolled by the Owls (0-3) at Houston.

McCoy threw for 124 yards and two touchdowns and Selvin Young and Jamaal Charles both ran for more than 100 yards and scored a touchdown each.

Texas Christian 12, Texas Tech 3: Not only did the 20th-ranked Horned Frogs win, they held the No. 24 Red Raiders (3-1) without a touchdown.

Chris Manfredini kicked four field goals for TCU (3-0), which won its 13th consecutive game.

TCU's winning streak is the longest in NCAA Division I-A, and one short of the school record.

Nebraska no match for Southern Cal, 28-10

Associated Press

The Southern California Trojans have a new starting quarterback and six new running backs.

But they look like the same old USC — with an even better defense than last year.

If there was any doubt, No. 4 USC declared itself a national title contender for a fourth straight season with a 28-10 victory over 19th-ranked Nebraska on Saturday night in Los Angeles.

"We're just getting going," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "We're just getting started. It's exciting."

It's also scary for the rest of the country. The Trojans' attack isn't as potent as the one that lit up scoreboards last year. But their once-unreliable defense appears much stouter. The Trojans (2-0) limited Nebraska (2-1) to 211 yards, including 68 rushing yards on 36 carries, an average of 1.9 yards per rush.

"They were really good," Nebraska defensive tackle Barry Cryer said. "You just can't deny that."

USC won for the 36th time in 37 games, the lone defeat coming to Texas in the final seconds of last January's Rose Bowl. The Trojans have won 28 straight at home.

Making his second career start, John David Booty was 25-for-36 for 257 with no interceptions and three touchdown passes for USC in a Matt Leinart-esque performance. All-America receiver Dwayne Jarrett, the one holdover star from last year's record-breaking offense, caught 11 passes for 136 yards, including two TDs. The 6-foot-5 Jarrett often found himself being covered by defensive backs who were four or more inches shorter. He beat 5-foot-9 cornerback

"Jarrett is a monster," Nebraska coach Bill Callahan said. "He physically dominated our guys."

Jarrett became USC's career touchdown receptions leader with 31, breaking Mike Williams' record of 30.

Ohio State 37, Cincinnati 7: Ohio State took awhile to get untracked before Troy Smith and Ted Ginn Jr. hooked up for two touchdown passes and the top-ranked Buckeyes (3-0) rolled by the Bearcats (1-2) at Columbus.



AMY SANCETTA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ohio State's Ted Ginn Jr. scores Saturday in the top-ranked Buckeyes' 37-7 rout of Cincinnati.

Ohio State's defense held the Bearcats to minus-4 yards on 22 attempts. The Buckeyes had eight sacks for minus 59 yards.

Still, the Buckeyes didn't have a firm grip on the game until tailback Antonio Pittman raced 48 yards for a score with 10 minutes remaining. Pittman finished with 155 yards on 16 carries.

Iowa 27, Iowa State 17: Drew Tate threw for 274 yards and three touchdowns and the No. 16 Hawkeyes rallied from a 14-3 deficit to beat their in-state rival at Iowa State.

The Cyclones (2-1) looked poised to make it seven wins in the last nine meetings, but

Tate led Iowa (3-0) back by throwing a pair of second-half touchdown passes.

Penn State 37, Youngstown State 3: Tony Hunt ran for 143 yards and a touchdown, A.J. Wallace scored on a 76-yard reverse and the No. 25 Nittany Lions (2-1) bullied the Division I-AA Penguins (2-1) at State College, Pa.

Penn State had 568 yards of total offense, including 389 on the ground, and held Youngstown State to 184 total yards.

Oregon 34, Oklahoma 33: Dennis Dixon and Oregon rallied for two touchdowns in the final 72 seconds — with help from a disputed outside kick — and the Ducks blocked a field goal on the final play to seal a wild victory over the No. 15 Sooners at Eugene, Ore.

Dixon's 16-yard keeper with 1:12 left brought the 18th-ranked Ducks to 33-27.

The Ducks (3-0) recovered the bouncing kick on their 48, but Oklahoma (2-1) argued that an Oregon player touched the ball before it went the required 10 yards, which would have given the Sooners possession. The call was upheld by instant replay and Dixon went to work.

Dixon threw a 23-yard TD pass to Brian Paysinger with 46 seconds to give Oregon the lead.

California 42, Portland State 16: Marshawn Lynch ran for 112 yards and a touchdown on six carries, and No. 21 Golden Bears tuned up for Pac-10 play by routing the Division I-AA Vikings.

Nate Longshore passed for 225 yards and two scores in the first half for the Golden Bears (2-1).

DeSean Jackson caught five passes for 103 yards and a score, but coach Jeff Tedford won't be entirely pleased with his team's error-riddled performance.

Cal's defense knocked two of the Vikings' quarterbacks out of the game with injuries on crushing hits in the first quarter.

After opening the season with a big loss at Tennessee and a big home win over Minnesota, Cal soon will find out whether its No. 9 preseason ranking was justified. Arizona State visits Memorial Stadium next weekend, with Oregon coming in two weeks later.

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The News Sentinel's John Adams and former Vol TE Von Reeves

SCOREBOARD

No. 1 Ohio St. 37, Cincinnati 7 Cincinnati 7 0 0 0 - 7 Ohio St. 3 10 7 17 - 37

First Quarter OSU—FG Petrey 47, 8:46. Cincinnati—Martin 22 pass from Grutza (Lovell kick), 6:36.

Second Quarter OSU—FG Petrey 43, 9:17. OSU—Ginn Jr. 12 pass from T.Smith (Petrey kick), 3:00.

Third Quarter OSU—Ginn Jr. 9 pass from T.Smith (Petrey kick), 7:10.

Fourth Quarter OSU—Pittman 48 run (Petrey kick), 8:57. OSU—M.Wells 9 run (Petrey kick), 7:45. OSU—FG Petrey 52, 1:14. A—105,037.

Team Statistics

Table with columns: Team, C, In, OSU, Rushes-yards, Passing, Comp-Att-Int, Return Yards, Punts-Avg, Fumbles-Lost, Penalties-Yards, Possession.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Cincinnati, Moore 3-14, Benton 5-13, D.Jones 1-4, Glatthaar 3-0, Davila 1-(minus 6), Grutza 9-(minus 29), Ohio St., Pittman 16-155, C.Wells 5-18, M.Wells 3-9, Tod.Boeckman 2-9, T.Smith 4-0, Ginn Jr. 1-(minus 6), Schoenhoff 1-1-0.

Receiving: Cincinnati, Stewart 5-64, Cirk 3-39, Poland 3-39, Jackson 3-14, Glatthaar 2-4, Martin 1-22, Goodman 1-21, D.Jones 1-8, Moore 1-5, Ohio St., Gonzalez 5-85, Ginn Jr. 5-33, Small 3-4, Nicolson 3-1, White Jr. 2-15, Pittman 2-7, Hartline 1-27, Robiskie 1-19, C.Wells 1-0, R.Hall 1-5, M.Wells 1-0.

No. 11 Michigan 47, No. 2 N.Dame 21 Michigan 20 14 6 7 - 47 Notre Dame 7 7 0 7 - 21

First Quarter Mich—Burgess 31 interception return (Rivas kick), 14:19. ND—McConeil 3 pass from B.Quinn (Gioia kick), 10:16.

Second Quarter Mich—Manningham 69 pass from Henne (kick blocked), 3:53. Mich—Hart 2 run (Rivas kick), 1:12.

Third Quarter Mich—Manningham 20 pass from Henne (Rivas kick), 11:26. Mich—Manningham 22 pass from Henne (Rivas kick), 2:30. ND—Samardzija 4 pass from B.Quinn (Gioia kick), 2:0.

Fourth Quarter ND—McKnight 28 pass from B.Quinn (Gioia kick), 12:41. Mich—Woodyley 54 fumble return (Rivas kick), 3:21. A—80,795.

Team Statistics

Table with columns: Team, Mich, ND, Rushes-yards, Passing, Comp-Att-Int, Return Yards, Punts-Avg, Fumbles-Lost, Penalties-Yards, Possession.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Michigan, Hart 31-124, Grady 6-9, Team 1-(minus 3), Henne 3-(minus 10), Notre Dame, Walker 10-25, Prince 2-(minus 1), Sharpley 1-(minus 2), B.Quinn 4-(minus 18).

Receiving: Michigan, Breaston 6-42, Manningham 4-137, Arrington 2-32, Oluigbo 1-9, Notre Dame, Walker 7-35, McKnight 5-76, Grimes 4-48, Samardzija 4-30, Carlson 3-42, Parris 1-7, McConnell 1-3.

No. 3 Auburn 7, No. 6 LSU 3 LSU 0 3 0 0 - 3 Auburn 0 0 7 0 - 7

Second Quarter LSU—FG David 42, :00.

Third Quarter LSU—Cox 1 run (Vaughn kick), 4:53. A—87,451.

Team Statistics

Table with columns: Team, LSU, Auburn, Rushes-yards, Passing, Comp-Att-Int, Return Yards, Punts-Avg, Fumbles-Lost, Penalties-Yards, Possession.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: LSU, Broussard 10-16, Vincent 6-16, Russell 4-14, Hester 3-(minus 4), Auburn, K.iron 25-70, Co.Taylor 1-11, Carl Stewart 2-8, Lester 2-0, Cox 8-(minus 17).

Passing: LSU, Russell 20-35-0-267, Team 2-0-0-0, Auburn, Cox 11-20-1-110.

Receiving: LSU, C.Davis 7-94, Doucet III 4-83, Bowe 5-56, Hester 4-77, Vincent 1-7, Auburn, Co.Taylor 3-22, Rodriguez 2-16, Carl Stewart 1-19, Rod.Smith 1-17, Dunn 1-14, McKenzie 1-13, Bennett 1-7, Trott 1-2.

No. 8 Texas 52, Rice 7 Texas 17 21 7 7 - 52 Rice 0 0 0 7 - 7

First Quarter Tex—Young 4 run (Johnson kick), 11:53. Tex—Charles 20 run (Johnson kick), 7:25.

Second Quarter Tex—Crowder recovered fumble in end zone (Johnson kick), 10:02. Tex—Ross 46 punt return (Johnson kick), 8:10.

Third Quarter Tex—Shipley 38 pass from C.McCoy (Johnson kick), 1:13.

Fourth Quarter Tex—H.Melton 5 run (Johnson kick), 6:36. Rice—Dillard 6 pass from Armstrong (Craig kick), 3:15. A—40,069.

Team Statistics

Table with columns: Team, Texas, Rice, Rushes-yards, Passing, Comp-Att-Int, Return Yards, Punts-Avg, Fumbles-Lost, Penalties-Yards, Possession.

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Receiving: LSU, C.Davis 7-94, Doucet III 4-83, Bowe 5-56, Hester 4-77, Vincent 1-7, Auburn, Co.Taylor 3-22, Rodriguez 2-16, Carl Stewart 1-19, Rod.Smith 1-17, Dunn 1-14, McKenzie 1-13, Bennett 1-7, Trott 1-2.

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Receiving: LSU, C.Davis 7-94, Doucet III 4-83, Bowe 5-56, Hester 4-77, Vincent 1-7, Auburn, Co.Taylor 3-22, Rodriguez 2-16, Carl Stewart 1-19, Rod.Smith 1-17, Dunn 1-14, McKenzie 1-13, Bennett 1-7, Trott 1-2.

No. 10 Georgia 34, UAB 0 UAB 0 0 0 0 - 0 Georgia 7 3 10 14 - 34

First Quarter Geo—Lumpkin 8 run (Coutu kick), 9:42.

Second Quarter Geo—FG Coutu 55, 5:09.

Third Quarter Geo—FG Coutu 38, 10:35. Geo—Byrd 12 blocked punt return (Coutu kick), 7:18.

Fourth Quarter Geo—Stafford 4 run (Coutu kick), 9:16. Geo—Southernland 1 run (Coutu kick), 4:24. A—92,746.

Team Statistics

Table with columns: Team, UAB, Geo, Rushes-yards, Passing, Comp-Att-Int, Return Yards, Punts-Avg, Fumbles-Lost, Penalties-Yards, Possession.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Texas, Charles 8-109, Young 15-101, Sneed 6-61, Shipley 1-40, H.Melton 5-24, Ogbonnya 2-3, Mat.McCoy 2-1, C.McCoy 4-(minus 9), Rice, Dillard 1-2, Armstrong 11-(minus 4), Q.Smith 8-(minus 10).

Passing: Texas, C.McCoy 7-8-0-124, Sneed 3-3-0-39, Rice, Armstrong 18-29-0-180.

Receiving: Texas, Finley 2-39, Ogbonnya 2-21, Shipley 1-38, Cosby 1-21, Sneed 1-16, Pittman 1-12, N.Jones 1-9, Charles 1-7, Rice, Dillard 9-91, Fentris 3-60, Falco 3-34, Q.Smith 3-(minus 5).

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Team Statistics

Table with columns: Team, UAB, Geo, Rushes-yards, Passing, Comp-Att-Int, Return Yards, Punts-Avg, Fumbles-Lost, Penalties-Yards, Possession.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: UAB, Burks 10-46, C.White 5-18, Chaney 3-18, Elliott 4-9, Slaughter 1-5, S.Brown 1-(minus 1), Hunt 8-(minus 10), Ch.Williams 5-(minus 17), Georgia, Lumpkin 10-54, Ware 8-48, T.Brown 10-26, Stafford 5-14, D.Williams 2-12, Southernland 2-3, Team 1-(minus 11).

Passing: UAB, Hunt 6-10-0-49, Ch.Williams 5-10-0-46, Georgia, Stafford 10-17-0-107, Cox 1-2-0-18.

Receiving: UAB, Mencer 3-21, Burks 2-15, C.Smith 2-14, Edwards 1-14, Elliott 1-10, Chaney 1-6, Slaughter 1-5, Georgia, K.Harris 3-30, Bryant 3-12, Ware 1-29, D.Williams 1-18, Goodman 1-15, Durham 1-15, T.Brown 1-6.

No. 12 Louisville 31, No. 17 Miami 7 Louisville 0 10 14 7 - 31 Miami 0 0 0 7 - 7

First Quarter Mia—Moss 1 run (Peattie kick), 8:12.

Second Quarter Lou—FG Carmody 22, 14:56. Lou—Urrutia 56 pass from Brohm (Carmody kick), 2:17.

Third Quarter Lou—K.Smith 4 run (Carmody kick), 10:27. Lou—Hunt 6-10-0-49.

Fourth Quarter Lou—K.Smith 2 run (Carmody kick), 5:55.

Team Statistics

Table with columns: Team, Mia, Lou, Rushes-yards, Passing, Comp-Att-Int, Return Yards, Punts-Avg, Fumbles-Lost, Penalties-Yards, Possession.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Cincinnati, Moore 3-14, Benton 5-13, D.Jones 1-4, Glatthaar 3-0, Davila 1-(minus 6), Grutza 9-(minus 29), Ohio St., Pittman 16-155, C.Wells 5-18, M.Wells 3-9, Tod.Boeckman 2-9, T.Smith 4-0, Ginn Jr. 1-(minus 6), Schoenhoff 1-1-0.

Receiving: Cincinnati, Stewart 5-64, Cirk 3-39, Poland 3-39, Jackson 3-14, Glatthaar 2-4, Martin 1-22, Goodman 1-21, D.Jones 1-8, Moore 1-5, Ohio St., Gonzalez 5-85, Ginn Jr. 5-33, Small 3-4, Nicolson 3-1, White Jr. 2-15, Pittman 2-7, Hartline 1-27, Robiskie 1-19, C.Wells 1-0, R.Hall 1-5, M.Wells 1-0.

No. 11 Michigan 47, No. 2 N.Dame 21 Michigan 20 14 6 7 - 47 Notre Dame 7 7 0 7 - 21

First Quarter Mich—Burgess 31 interception return (Rivas kick), 14:19. ND—McConeil 3 pass from B.Quinn (Gioia kick), 10:16.

Second Quarter Mich—Manningham 69 pass from Henne (kick blocked), 3:53. Mich—Hart 2 run (Rivas kick), 1:12.

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Fourth Quarter ND—McKnight 28 pass from B.Quinn (Gioia kick), 12:41. Mich—Woodyley 54 fumble return (Rivas kick), 3:21. A—80,795.

Team Statistics

Table with columns: Team, Mich, ND, Rushes-yards, Passing, Comp-Att-Int, Return Yards, Punts-Avg, Fumbles-Lost, Penalties-Yards, Possession.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Michigan, Hart 31-124, Grady 6-9, Team 1-(minus 3), Henne 3-(minus 10), Notre Dame, Walker 10-25, Prince 2-(minus 1), Sharpley 1-(minus 2), B.Quinn 4-(minus 18).

Receiving: Michigan, Breaston 6-42, Manningham 4-137, Arrington 2-32, Oluigbo 1-9, Notre Dame, Walker 7-35, McKnight 5-76, Grimes 4-48, Samardzija 4-30, Carlson 3-42, Parris 1-7, McConnell 1-3.

No. 3 Auburn 7, No. 6 LSU 3 LSU 0 3 0 0 - 3 Auburn 0 0 7 0 - 7

Second Quarter LSU—FG David 42, :00.

Third Quarter LSU—Cox 1 run (Vaughn kick), 4:53. A—87,451.

Team Statistics

Table with columns: Team, LSU, Auburn, Rushes-yards, Passing, Comp-Att-Int, Return Yards, Punts-Avg, Fumbles-Lost, Penalties-Yards, Possession.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: LSU, Broussard 10-16, Vincent 6-16, Russell 4-14, Hester 3-(minus 4), Auburn, K.iron 25-70, Co.Taylor 1-11, Carl Stewart 2-8, Lester 2-0, Cox 8-(minus 17).

Passing: LSU, Russell 20-35-0-267, Team 2-0-0-0, Auburn, Cox 11-20-1-110.

Receiving: LSU, C.Davis 7-94, Doucet III 4-83, Bowe 5-56, Hester 4-77, Vincent 1-7, Auburn, Co.Taylor 3-22, Rodriguez 2-16, Carl Stewart 1-19, Rod.Smith 1-17, Dunn 1-14, McKenzie 1-13, Bennett 1-7, Trott 1-2.

No. 8 Texas 52, Rice 7 Texas 17 21 7 7 - 52 Rice 0 0 0 7 - 7

First Quarter Tex—Young 4 run (Johnson kick), 11:53. Tex—Charles 20 run (Johnson kick), 7:25.

Second Quarter Tex—Crowder recovered fumble in end zone (Johnson kick), 10:02. Tex—Ross 46 punt return (Johnson kick), 8:10.

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No. 10 Georgia 34, UAB 0 UAB 0 0 0 0 - 0 Georgia 7 3 10 14 - 34

First Quarter Geo—Lumpkin 8 run (Coutu kick), 9:42.

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Receiving: Texas, Finley 2-39, Ogbonnya 2-21, Shipley 1-38, Cosby 1-21, Sneed 1-16, Pittman 1-12, N.Jones 1-9, Charles 1-7, Rice, Dillard 9-91, Fentris 3-60, Falco 3-34, Q.Smith 3-(minus 5).

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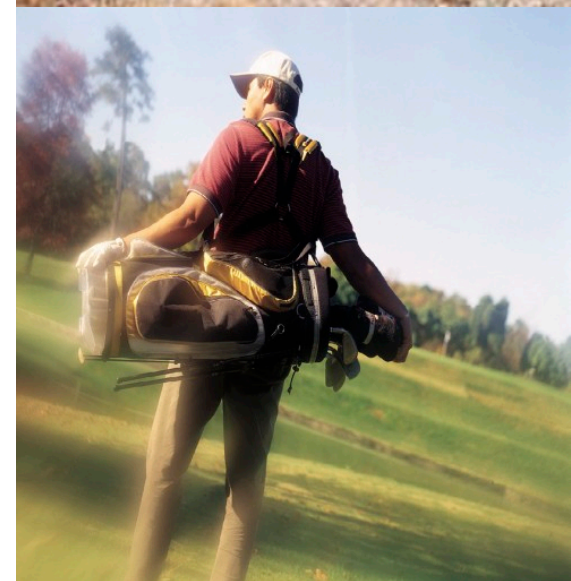
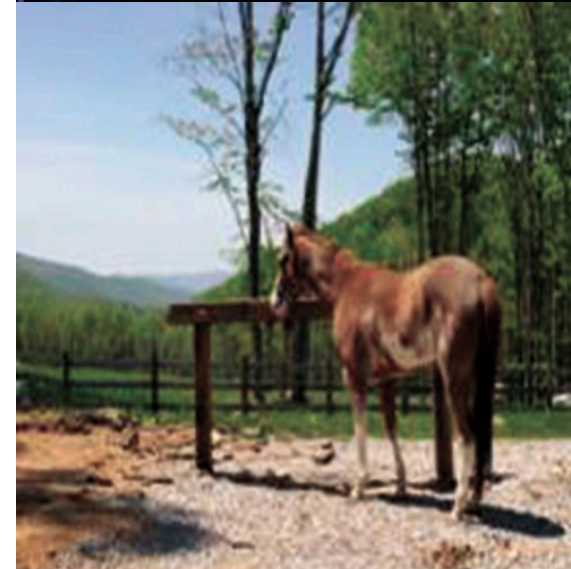
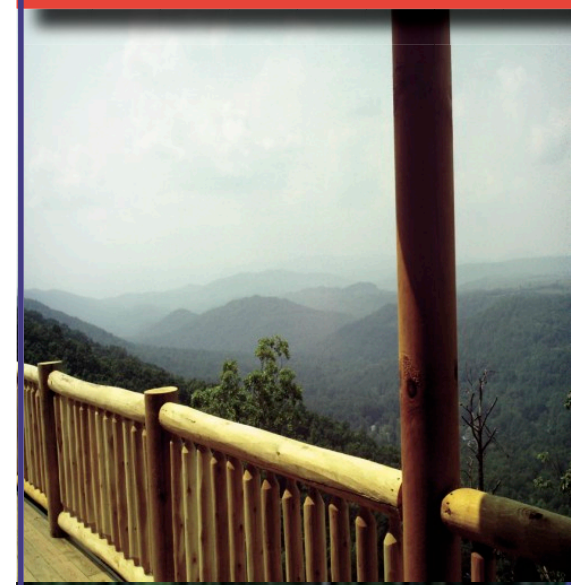
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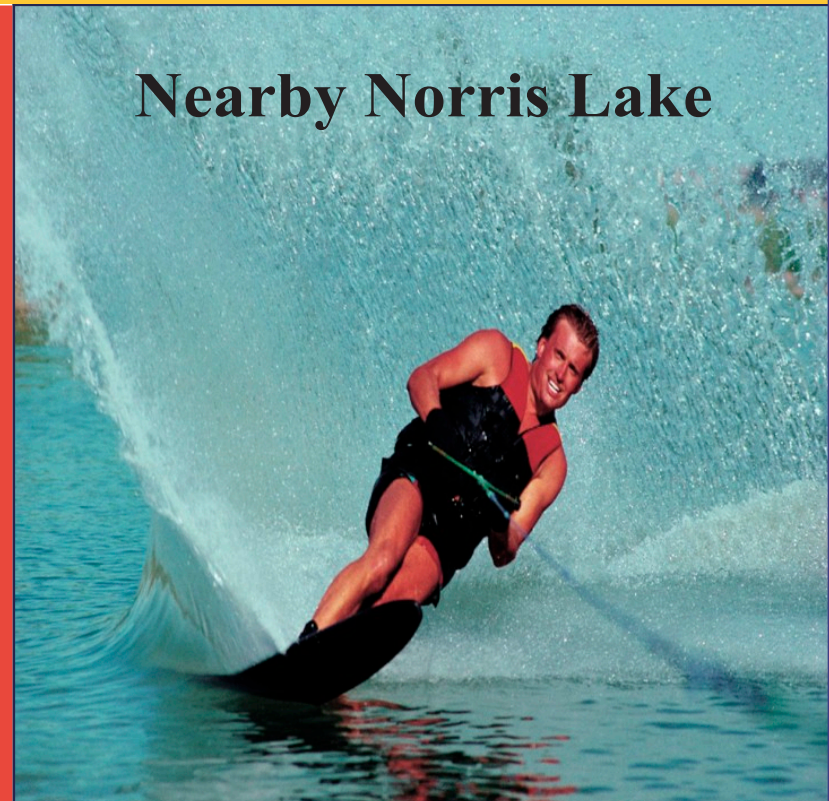


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