

LSU 28, TENNESSEE 24

Didn't see it coming



CLAY OWEN/NEWS SENTINEL

Early Doucet of LSU is congratulated by teammates after catching the game-winning touchdown with nine seconds left as Jonathan Hefney of Tennessee walks away Saturday. LSU won 28-24 at Neyland Stadium.

Vols at a loss to explain bad ending

BY MIKE STRANGE
strange2@knews.com

In what has become a Tennessee football season of fourth-quarter drama, Saturday at Neyland Stadium played out right on script.

Except for the last scene. "We never thought they were going to score," said linebacker Ryan Karl.

"There wasn't a doubt in my mind we'd stop 'em, that we'd get a turnover or a three-and-out."

After watching the Vols win three consecutive games with fourth-quarter rallies, Karl wasn't just halfway sure this time against LSU. He believed from the top of his orange-striped helmet down to his cleats.

"Even when they got down to the 6 with 15 seconds to go, I thought we'd stop 'em," he said. "I thought even if they tried to kick a field goal we were going to block it."

But LSU did score — and it wasn't any field goal.

JaMarcus Russell's 4-yard touchdown pass to Early Doucet with nine seconds to play lifted the No. 13 Tigers to a 28-24 victory over the No. 8 Vols.

For the Vols and their sub-quarterback Jonathan Crompton and for a partisan crowd of 106,333, the LSU score punctuated an excruciating final seven minutes.

LSU (7-2, 3-2 SEC) crushed the Vols (7-2, 3-2) with a 15-play drive that consumed 7:14 and left virtually no time for an answer other than two desperation snaps that went nowhere.

Thus, Tennessee failed to hold a 17-7 second-half lead, a scenario similar to its only other loss, 21-20 to Florida on Sept. 16.

LSU, boasting the nation's top-ranked defense and the SEC's highest-scoring offense, dominated the second half to the extent that the Vols held the ball a mere 6 minutes, 28 seconds after halftime.

That was still enough time to get a 31-yard interception-return touchdown from Demetric Morley and a 54-yard TD from Crompton to Robert Meachem.

The latter put UT on top 24-21 with 7:29 to play and set the table for a fourth consecutive fourth-quarter victory rally.

See **VOLS** on VR4

ON GOVOLS.COM

■ Audio slideshow from LSU vs. UT.

LSU's talent overcomes its ineptitude



JOHN ADAMS

Midway through the fourth quarter Saturday night, Tennessee optimists probably could see all the way to a BCS bowl. The extremists among them might have seen even further.

How about UT vs. Ohio State for the national championship?

Sure, a lot would have to happen. The eighth-ranked Vols would have to dazzle a few more pollsters, get a couple of favorable computer glitches and hope that several games beyond their control fell their way.

But they had done their part. They had overtaken LSU's No. 1-ranked defense with their No. 2 quarterback, redshirt freshman Jonathan Crompton.

They left it up to the Tigers to do the rest.

Nothing spectacular was required. LSU only had to stay in character.

The Tigers have been at their creative best against nationally ranked teams in close games. They have found ways to lose games like the one that was hanging in the balance at Neyland Stadium.

But they found a way to win one Saturday, and the solution was as basic as it gets. They simply held on to the football.

No one squeezed it tighter than wide receiver Early Doucet, who cut across the heart of the UT end zone to snag a 4-yard touchdown pass from JaMarcus Russell with nine seconds to play.

The touchdown gave the 13th-ranked Tigers a 28-24 victory. And it burst the BCS-size

See **ADAMS** on VR4

SCOREBOARD

TOP 25

No. 1 Ohio State 17, Illinois 10
No. 2 Michigan 34, Ball State 26
No. 4 Texas 36, Oklahoma State 10
No. 6 Auburn 27, Arkansas State 0
No. 7 Florida 25, Vanderbilt 19
No. 14 LSU 28, No. 8 Tennessee 24
No. 9 Southern Cal 42, Stanford 0

No. 10 California 38, UCLA 24
No. 11 Notre Dame 45, North Carolina 26
No. 12 Arkansas 26, South Carolina 20
No. 22 Wake Forest 21, No. 16 Boston College 14
No. 17 Wisconsin 13, Penn State 3
No. 18 Oklahoma 17, No. 21 Texas A&M 16
Maryland 13, No. 19 Clemson 12
No. 20 Georgia Tech 31, North Carolina State 23

No. 23 Virginia Tech 17, Miami 10
No. 24 Oregon 34, Washington 14
Arizona 27, No. 25 Washington State 17

SEC

Ole Miss 27, Northwestern State 7
Kentucky 24, Georgia 20
Mississippi State 24, Alabama 16

AREA

Carson-Newman 52, Wingate 14
Tusculum 24, Newberry 17
Maryville 51, Shenandoah University 16

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YOUR CALL

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

"Verne has already botched Ja'Kouri and Marsalous' names. Nice start."

Josh Ward
3:36 PM

"Did it touch Morley?"

GDog
4:48 PM

"BEAUTIFUL PASS - perfect! Crompton will always remember that pass - even win he's a Granddaddy!
Taylor
5:05 PM

"I'm extremely pleased with the 10-7 lead considering everything. Crompton does play with a lot of HEART."

Taylor
5:20 PM

"That's a big play everyone has waited for from Morley, and a big mistake expected from Russell."

Josh Ward
5:47 PM

"LSU made plays when it mattered."

Josh Ward
7:10 PM

STATISTICS

LSU INDIVIDUAL

RUSHING

	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
JaMarcus Russell	7	82	11	71	0	34	10.1
Keiland Williams	17	63	10	53	1	14	3.1
Jacob Hester	6	52	0	52	0	17	8.7
Trindon Holliday	3	26	0	26	0	14	8.7
Chris Jackson	1	18	0	18	0	18	18.0
Alley Broussard	7	13	1	12	0	3	1.7
Early Doucet	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0
Justin Vincent	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Matt Flynn	2	4	6	-2	0	4	-1.0
Totals...	45	259	28	231	1	34	5.1

PASSING

	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
JaMarcus Russell	36-24-3	247	3	36	1
Matt Flynn	0-0-0	0	0	0	1
Totals...	36-24-3	247	3	36	2

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds	TD	Long
Early Doucet	8	73	1	14
Dwayne Bowe	6	89	1	36
Craig Davis	3	42	1	23
Keiland Williams	2	14	0	12
Richard Dickson	2	12	0	9
Jacob Hester	2	9	0	6
Justin Vincent	1	8	0	8
Totals...	24	247	3	36

PUNTING

	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Chris Jackson	2	104	52.0	55	0	1
Totals...	2	104	52.0	55	0	1

ALL RETURNS

	Punts			Kickoffs			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Early Doucet	0	0	0	1	14	14	0	0	0
Craig Davis	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Darry Beckwith	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-7	0
Jared Mitchell	0	0	0	1	20	20	0	0	0
Totals...	1	4	4	2	34	20	1	-7	0

PLACEKICKING

Field goals	1st	10:22	52 yds	Missed
Colt David				
Kickoffs				

	No	Yds	TB	OB	Avg
Chris Jackson	5	289	3	0	57.8

FUMBLES

Robert Dwayne Bowe 1-1; JaMarcus Russell 1-0.

DEFENSE

Player	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL/Yds	FFFR-Yd	Int	BUp	Blk	Sack	QBH
LaRon Landry	5	2	7	1.0-5	.	.	1	.	1.0/5	.
Ali Highsmith	4	1	5	.	1	.	2	.	.	.
Darry Beckwith	3	1	4	.	.	1-7	.	.	.	.
Chevis Jackson	3	.	3	.	.	.	2	.	.	.
Jessie Daniels	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Tyson Jackson	2	1	3	1.0-2	.	.	.	.	.	1
Charles Alexander	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	0.5/0	.	.
Daniel Francis	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Jonathan Zenon	2	.	2	.	.	.	2	.	.	.
Glenn Dorsey	1	1	2	1.0-10	.	.	.	.	1.0/10	.
Herman Johnson	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
R. Jean-Francois	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

LSU	0	7	14	7-28
TENNESSEE	0	10	7	7-24

TEAM

	LSU	UT
FIRST DOWNS	28	11
Rushing	16	4
Passing	12	6
Penalty	0	1
NET YARDS RUSHING	231	62
Rushing Attempts	45	20
Average Per Rush	5.1	3.1
Yards Gained Rushing	259	79
Yards Lost Rushing	28	17
NET YARDS PASSING	247	186
Completions-Attempts-Int	24-36-3	12-30-1
Average Per Attempt	6.9	6.2
Average Per Completion	10.3	15.5
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	478	248
Total offense plays	81	50
Average Gain Per Play	5.9	5.0
Fumbles: Number-Lost	2-1	2-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	9-58	1-15
PUNTS-YARDS	2-104	5-239
Average Yards Per Punt	52.0	47.8
Net Yards Per Punt	40.0	43.0
Inside 20	0	2
50+ Yards	1	3
Touchbacks	1	1
Fair catch	0	2
KICKOFFS-YARDS	5-289	5-319
Average Yards Per Kickoff	57.8	63.8
Net Yards Per Kickoff	42.0	45.0
Touchbacks	3	3
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-4-0	1-4-0
Average Per Return	4.0	4.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-34-0	1-19-0
Average Per Return	17.0	19.0
Interceptions: Number-Yards-TD	1--7-0	3-73-1
Fumble Returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	41:06	18:54
1st Quarter	10:54	4:06
2nd Quarter	6:40	8:20
3rd Quarter	9:54	5:06
4th Quarter	13:38	1:22
Third-Down Conversions	8 of 14	5 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	3 of 3	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-4	1-1
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-15	2-16
PAT Kicks	4-4	3-3
Field Goals	0-1	1-2

TENNESSEE INDIVIDUAL

RUSHING

	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Arian Foster	10	46	2	44	0	22	4.4
Jonathan Crompton	6	27	5	22	0	11	3.7
Montario Hardesty	2	5	0	5	0	3	2.5
Robert Meachem	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0
Erik Ainge	1	0	10	-10	0	0	-10.0
Totals...	20	79	17	62	0	22	3.1

PASSING

	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Jonathan Crompton	24-11-1	183	2	54	1
Erik Ainge	6-1-0	3	0	3	1
Totals...	30-12-1	186	2	54	2

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds	TD	Long
Robert Meachem	5	121	2	54
Jayson Swain	3	26	0	15
Chris Brown	2	11	0	6
Brad Cottam	1	25	0	25
Lucas Taylor	1	3	0	3
Totals...	12	186	2	54

PUNTING

	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Britton Colquitt	5	239	47.8	59	2	1
Totals...	5	239	47.8	59	2	1

ALL RETURNS

	Punts			Kickoffs			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
D. Morley	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	31	31
Antwan Stewart	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	12
Jonathan Hefney	1	4	4	0	0	0	1	30	30
J. Williams	0	0	0	1	19	19	0	0	0
Totals...	1	4	4	1	19	19	3	73	31

PLACEKICKING

Field goals	2nd	00:03	24 yds	Good
James Wilhoit				
Kickoffs	4th	14:54	46 yds	Missed
James Wilhoit				

FUMBLES

Jonathan Crompton 2-0

DEFENSE

Player	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL/Yds	FF	FR-Yd	Int	BUp	Blk	Sack	QBH
Jonathan Hefney	11	4	15	.	.	.	1-30	1	.	.	.
Jerod Mayo	7	5	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Demetrice Morley	8	.	8	2.0-9	.	.	1-31	.	.	1.0/6	.
Turk McBride	5	2	7	1.0-1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Antwan Stewart	6	.	6	.	.	.	1-12	.	.	.	.
Xavier Mitchell	5	1	6	1.0-10	1	.	.	1	.	1.0/10	1
Ellix Wilson	3	2	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Marvin Mitchell	4	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Jonathan Wade	3	1	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Demonte' Bolden	3	1	4	1.0-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Antonio Reynolds	1	2	3	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Robert Ayers	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ryan Karl	2	.	2	2.0-6	.	1-0	.	.	.	.	.
Rico McCoy	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
J.T. Mapu	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dorian Davis	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Robert Meachem	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

HOW THEY SCORED

FIRST QUARTER

NO SCORING

SECOND QUARTER

LSU 7, TENNESSEE 0

LSU-Buster Davis 23-yard pass over the middle from JaMarcus Russell (Colt David kick), 14:32.

Key plays-On third-and-7, Dwayne Bowe 16 pass from Russell to LSU 39; Trindon Holliday 11 run to LSU 45; On third-and-20, Bowe 25 pass from Russell to UT 35; On third-and-15, Early Doucet 14 pass from Russell to UT 26; Alley Broussard 3 run for first down at UT 23.

Drive-13 plays, 80 yards, 5:46.

TENNESSEE 7, LSU 7

UT-Robert Meachem 37 yard pass from Jonathan Crompton (James Wilhoit kick), 4:38.

Key plays-Meachem 15 pass from Crompton to UT 36; On third-and-5, Meachem 7 pass from Crompton and LSU roughing passer for 15-yard penalty to LSU 37.

Drive-Eight plays, 80 yards, 2:27.

TENNESSEE 10, LSU 7

UT-Wilhoit 24-yard field goal, :03.

Key plays-UT's Jonathan Hefney intercepts Russell and returns to UT 38; Jayson Swain 15 pass from Crompton to LSU 47; Swain 8 pass from Crompton to LSU 39; Arian Foster 22 run to LSU 17; Crompton 7 run to LSU 8.

Drive-Eight plays, 54 yards, 1:13.

THIRD QUARTER

FRAME-BY-FRAME



MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee receiver Robert Meachem, right, catches a 37-yard touchdown pass over LSU safety Jessie Daniels during the first half Saturday. It was the first career TD pass for quarterback Jonathan Crompton, who came in for starter Erik Ainge when Ainge aggravated an ankle injury.



MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee reserve running back David Yancey watches the final seconds of the Vols' 28-24 loss to LSU.



AMY SMOTHERMAN-BURGESS/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee quarterback Jonathan Crompton is tackled by LSU defenders Ryan Willis, left, and LaRon Landry on Saturday.



CLAY OWEN/NEWS SENTINEL

LSU tight end Richard Dickson reaches out for a first down as he is brought down by Tennessee defensive end Xavier Mitchell, left, and Vols linebacker Ryan Karl.



2006 SCHEDULE

September
 2 — California, W 35-18
 9 — Air Force, W 31-30
 16 — Florida, L 21-20
 23 — Marshall, W 33-7
 30 — at Memphis, W 41-7

October
 7 — at Georgia, W 51-33
 Oct. 21 — Alabama, W 16-13
 Oct. 28 — at S. Carolina, W 31-24

November
Saturday—LSU, L 28-24
 11 — at Arkansas, TBA
 18 — at Vanderbilt
 25 — Kentucky

VOLS

from VR1

It was not to be. Following Meachem's score, the Tigers crunched out 80 yards, converting a fourth-and-8 along the way, and produced the touchdown that earned LSU only its second win in 14 trips to Knoxville.

Coupled with Florida's win at Vanderbilt, Tennessee's long-shot hopes of winning the SEC Eastern Division are over.

And it's not likely that the Orange, Sugar or Fiesta bowl scouts who were present Saturday will be back this season.

"That hurts," said UT coach Phillip Fulmer. "That really hurts our football team."

"We can allow it to hurt maybe tomorrow but Monday we have got to get ready to go to Arkansas. This team still has a lot to play for."

Judging from the stat sheet, it's a wonder Tennessee had a lead into the final seconds.

The Tigers had 478 yards of offense to 248 for the Vols.

The Tigers rushed for 231 yards to the Vols' 62.

LSU had the football 41:06 compared to 18:54 for the Vols and ran 81 plays to UT's 50.

The great leveler was turnovers.

Tennessee intercepted three Russell passes and recovered an LSU fumble.

The first interception, by Jonathan Hefney, set up a 24-yard James Wilhoit field goal to send



MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee receiver Robert Meachem, center, reaches for a pass between LSU defenders LaRon Landry, left, and Jonathan Zenon. Meachem caught five passes for 121 yards in the game.

the Vols into the half with a 10-7 lead.

Having picked off Russell's final pass of the first half, the Vols also got his first one of the second.

On LSU's second snap of the third quarter, Morley snatched an overthrow and ran 31 yards for the score to make it 17-7.

The Tigers held onto the ball the rest of the quarter and were rewarded.

A 10-play, 77-yard drive ended in a 5-yard Russell TD pass to Dwayne Bowe to make it 17-14. After a three-and-out UT se-

ries, the Tigers resumed with an eight-play drive that ended in Keiland Williams' 7-yard touchdown run to put LSU up 21-14.

The turnovers surfaced again in the fourth quarter.

Antwan Stewart intercepted Russell, but UT gave the ball right back via a Crompton interception.

Two plays later, Bowe fumbled after a short reception and Karl recovered at the Tennessee 46.

On Tennessee's first snap, Crompton went deep and got Meachem for the go-ahead

touchdown.

The crowd exploded and Crompton looked like the headline story.

The redshirt freshman entered the game in the second quarter after Erik Ainge suffered through an ineffective first quarter.

Ainge, who sprained an ankle last week at South Carolina, started but was gone after three unproductive series in which the Vols ran nine total plays for minus-5 yards.

He completed one pass for 3 yards and his last play was taking a 10-yard sack.

Before Crompton took the field, LSU drove 80 yards for the game's first score.

Along the way, the Tigers converted third-and-7 and third-and-20 then got 14 yards on third-and-15, a prelude to converting fourth-and-1.

Buster Davis got the touchdown on a 23-yard pass from Russell.

Crompton's second series produced results, a 37-yard TD pass to Meachem to tie the score.

Crompton finished 11-of-24 for 183 yards passing. "I honestly thought we could

win the game," he said. "I wasn't nervous, not at all."

"Coach (David) Cutcliffe gets you very prepared."

But LSU was also well prepared.

"Our football team has character," said LSU coach Les Miles. "Our football will play until the last minute, 'til the last second."

The Vols found that out all too well Saturday. Even if they didn't see it coming.

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

ADAMS

from VR1

bubble of every orange-colored optimist in the crowd.

UT was officially eliminated from the SEC East race. It also was knocked out of the top 10, although that won't be official until today.

If you're looking for someone to blame, I recommend the 6-foot-6, 260-pound monster of a quarterback whose fingerprints were all over UT's come-from-behind, overtime victory at Tiger Stadium last year.

Russell, who threw a crucial second-half interception last year, appeared to be stumbling down the same disastrous path early in the second half when UT's Demetric Morley intercepted his pass and ran 31 yards for a touchdown.

Russell threw two other interceptions, and the Tigers also lost a fumble, proving

once again their talent is exceeded only by their self-destructiveness.

But talent finally prevailed. UT couldn't cover LSU's big, fast wide receivers. And too often, it couldn't tackle Russell once he awkwardly shifted out of first gear and rambled into the secondary.

Russell led all rushers with 71 yards on seven carries. He completed 24-of-36 passes for 247 yards.

You look at the rest of the stats and wonder why — even with all the turnovers — LSU needed that final drive to decide the outcome. The Tigers almost doubled UT's yardage; they had 28 first downs to UT's 11.

The Vols didn't blow the game. They simply lost to a better team, just as they did in a 21-20 loss to Florida.

But don't expect their players to see it that way.

"We should have won this game," UT running back Arian Foster said. "We should have

won the Florida game."

To their credit, the Vols could have won both of those games. To their credit, they have overachieved in winning seven of their first nine games.

As UT coach Phillip Fulmer put it, "This team has a chance to have a fine season, and from where everybody expected it to be at this point, we're doing well."

UT players would be wise to remember that as they prepare for Arkansas next week. They also would be wise to forget that they lost 10-point leads to Florida and LSU.

They still can win 10 regular-season games. They still can finish in the top 10 and qualify for an attractive bowl.

And they still can succeed in distancing themselves so far from the 5-6 debacle of 2005 that their fans will think it happened to somebody else.

Sports editor John Adams may be reached at 865-342-6284.



AMY SMOTHERMAN-BURGESS/NEWS SENTINEL

LSU coach Les Miles sings along with the Tigers fans after a 28-24 victory over Tennessee.

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EXCELLENT FINANCING AVAILABLE

Crompton gets great reviews, but not victory

Freshman quarterback's confidence shows with two touchdowns

BY DREW EDWARDS
edwardsd@knews.com

All week long, Jonathan Crompton was cast as anything but your typical backup quarterback.

Confident. Poised. Strong-armed. Mobile. Competitive.

Tennessee's redshirt freshman lived up to the hype. But even a supreme effort wasn't enough against the nation's top-ranked defense.

"I think what everybody got to see is what we've been saying all along," UT wide receivers coach Trooper Taylor said of Crompton. "He's a terrific player, he brings a lot to the table."

He nearly brought the Vols a victory in the first significant playing time of his career.

Crompton's 54-yard touchdown pass

to junior Robert Meachem gave the Vols a three-point lead with 7 minutes, 29 seconds remaining.

That was the last real chance Crompton and the Vols' offense had to make anything happen in a 28-24 loss to No. 13 LSU on Saturday in Neyland Stadium.

Crompton completed 11 of his 24 passes for 183 yards, two scores to Meachem and one interception.

This, after throwing all of four passes in the Vols' previous eight games.

"For as much game experience as he had, I think he did a great job," center Josh McNeil said. "He's a great competitor. He had good control in the huddle. He's got everything you want to see in a quarterback, and he's going to be a great one, I think."

Tennessee had a great quarterback entering Saturday's game, but starter Erik Ainge, who led the SEC in passing yards per game and total offense, played just three series.

The junior was severely limited this

week in practice by a sprained right ankle suffered late in Tennessee's 31-24 victory over South Carolina.

During pregame warm-ups, offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe put Ainge through a few drills and pronounced him limited, but fit to play.

"I asked him to do three or four different things footwork-wise, and he was going well," Cutcliffe said. "I knew watching that we'd have to play Jonathan some. Erik worked so hard to get back. He did a good job. He put the ball on the money a few times, and we just didn't execute. You don't know how hard he worked to get back."

Three of his six passes were dropped. The SEC's leading passer never returned to the field after about the 5-minute mark of the first quarter.

On his last play of the game, Ainge was sacked by Glenn Dorsey, one of just two sacks surrendered by the Vols.

"That last play I got sacked on, didn't reinjured it, didn't re-sprain it, but it made it to where it was really tough to

move around," said Ainge, who was on crutches during his postgame interview. "Between having a bum right ankle and not being able to overcompensate with my left one, it would have restricted us to the shotgun."

That's when Cutcliffe picked up the phone.

"Coach Cutcliffe told me, 'You're going to be in until I tell you otherwise,'" Crompton said.

Turns out that was the rest of the game.

After leading the Vols to their first first down of the game on a 10-play, 29-yard drive in his first series, Crompton took the offense 80 yards in eight plays for its only touchdown of the first half.

Crompton lofted a pass to Meachem that was caught in stride for a 37-yard touchdown to tie the game at 7-7.

After an LSU interception, Crompton took the Vols 54 yards for a 24-yard field goal and a 10-7 lead heading into halftime.

The second half wasn't nearly as high-

light filled.

Tennessee punted on its first drive and missed a field goal on its second before Crompton threw an interception three plays into its third possession.

On that play, Crompton said he threw late to Lucas Taylor, who tipped the ball into Darry Beckwith's hands.

Still, the reviews were all positive for Crompton, who missed all of last season after undergoing surgery to repair a torn labrum in his throwing shoulder.

He was solid Saturday even facing such a formidable foe.

"They were the No. 1 defense in the nation," Crompton said. "They proved it tonight."

But Crompton might have proved a little something about himself, too.

"I think," UT coach Phillip Fulmer said, "he's going to be a heck of a quarterback."

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



CLAY OWEN/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee linebacker Elix Wilson sends LSU running back Keiland Williams tumbling to the ground during Saturday's SEC game at Neyland Stadium.

Touchdown interception just part of wild game for Morley

BY DAVE HOOKER
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Demetrice Morley may be a lot of things. But he's certainly not boring.

Tennessee's sophomore safety was at the center of several big plays as UT lost to LSU 28-24 Saturday at Neyland Stadium. Morley's biggest play was a 31-yard interception return for a touchdown early in the third quarter, giving UT a 10-point lead.

"The ball's coming in slow motion to me," Morley said of the fluttering pass by LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell. "It was an early Christmas present."

Morley also registered eight tackles, two for a loss, and a sack on LSU's opening drive. But on the Tigers' game winning drive, Morley was covering LSU receiver Early Doucet on a fourth-and-8. Doucet said Morley had his hand on the ball but couldn't knock it away. The Tigers converted.

The scariest play for Morley came when a punt might have touched him before bouncing into the end zone and being recovered by LSU. If the ball indeed touched Morley, it would have been live and resulted in a touchdown.

Officials called the play a touchback. Replays were inconclusive. LSU coach Les Miles challenged the play to no avail.

"I don't really know if I touched it," Morley said. "I guess — from the audience's view — it looked like I touched it, but I don't think I touched it. I didn't feel it touch me at all."

Morley returned to the starting lineup against LSU after being suspended for most of the first half against South Carolina last week due to academics.

UT's coaches said they were considering starting last week's replacement, redshirt freshman Antonio Wardlow, in place of Morley. However, Morley started and played the entire game.

Drop Dilemma: The Vols dropped four passes in the first half. UT's leading receiver, junior Robert Meachem, had two. Sophomore Josh Briscoe had one.

"You can't win dropping balls like that," UT wide receivers coach Trooper Taylor said. "I think if we make those plays early, it gets us some momentum early and that gets us in a flow. Maybe the game could have been different."

UT's receivers appeared to settle down in the second half.

"We talked about it on the sideline," Taylor said, "and got it straightened out."

Taylor said it seemed like some of his players were pressing to make plays.

"They didn't settle down and run the routes the way they're supposed to be ran and didn't look the ball all the way in," Taylor said. "We just got back to fundamentals."

Taylor said he wasn't sure if playing with a young quarterback — freshman Jonathan Crompton — or the big-game atmosphere caused his players to

get nervous.

"We're not going to go out there and press and put an 'S' on our chest," Taylor said. "The 'T' on our hat is good enough."

Number One: UT's offensive players didn't seem overly impressed with LSU's defense, which came into the UT game ranked first in the NCAA in yards allowed per game.

"I still think Florida was a better front seven all around," UT offensive tackle Arron Sears said, "but those guys played very well."

The most telling stat against Florida was minus-11 yards rushing. UT rushed for 62 yards against LSU. Tailback Arian Foster said UT's offense could have played better.

"I feel like that we could have done a lot more than what we did," Foster said. "They were real fast, fast and physical. I felt like we could have exploited it a little bit better."

Scary Moment: UT sophomore Ja'Kouri Williams was called for a personal foul when he appeared to dive at LSU's Buster Davis' knees on a punt return. Williams said he was pushed by an LSU blocker.

"I was going full speed and I saw the fair catch late," Williams said. "I felt like I was pushed at the same time. Obviously, the refs didn't see it the same way I saw it."

Davis was down momentarily but eventually jogged off the field. The penalty moved the ball to the LSU 48. The Tigers scored on the drive to take the lead 21-17.

Player Pub: UT distributed a one-page flyer touting All-America candidates Erik Ainge, Robert Meachem and Sears. The promotional material was patterned after a movie poster. Ainge was dubbed "The Perfect Ten". Sears was called "The Bodyguard". Meachem was referred to as "Professor Paydirt."

Bowl Bound: Scouts from the Capital One (Orlando), Orange (Miami), Sugar (New Orleans), Chick-fil-A (Atlanta), Fiesta (Tempe) and Outback (Tampa Bay) bowls were in attendance.

Injury Report: UT linebacker Jerod Mayo left the game after a hard hit to the head in the second quarter. Mayo returned and said he was fine.

"I just chipped my tooth," the sophomore said.

UT coach Phillip Fulmer said redshirt freshman running back Montario Hardesty was hurt during the game. Junior quarterback Erik Ainge started but couldn't continue because of a sprained right ankle. Middle linebacker Marvin Mitchell suffered a left shoulder injury in the first half but returned to the game.

Money Man: Cory Hayes, 29, of Knoxville kicked a 35-yard field goal during halftime to win \$100,000 in a contest sponsored by WIVK radio.

Defense can't make stand

Vols feel frustration after Tigers' rally

BY MARK BURGESS
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The stops kept coming. The turnovers kept coming.

Then came LSU's final drive.

That's when Tennessee's defense, in need of its biggest stop of the game, came up short.

The Tigers went 80 yards in 15 plays to win 28-24 Saturday night at Neyland Stadium.

They owned possession for seven minutes and 14 seconds on the game-winning drive.

They converted on a fourth-down play for the third time in the game.

They erased the demons of last season's UT overtime victory in Baton Rouge.

"We didn't get it done and it wasn't very pretty defensively," UT defensive coordinator John Chavis said. "Our kids made a lot of plays, but we needed one more."

Tennessee's defense forced four LSU turnovers, three of those coming in the second half.

The problem was LSU scored touchdowns on all three of its other second-half possessions.

The last one was the most painful.

"We tried to bow our backs and hold them up," defensive tackle Demonte Bolden said. "To see them go in the end zone, it's like hatred."

"I don't want anybody scoring in my house. It's like you don't want anybody going in your house and taking what's yours."

JaMarcus Russell and Early Doucet were the primary thieves

on the final drive.

Russell (24-of-36 passing for 247 yards and three touchdowns) connected with Doucet five times on the drive, including an 8-yard completion to convert on fourth-and-eight.

"I thought on fourth down, with where our DB was, that would end it," Chavis said. "I thought our DB (Demetrice Morley) got his hand on it, but it wasn't meant to be."

"That's one they made and we didn't make."

Finally, with nine seconds remaining, Doucet went over the middle and caught a 4-yard TD from Russell.

"The defense, we're taking this game on our shoulders," sophomore linebacker Jerod Mayo said. "We're taking the blame for this one."

"I felt like we had the game won. We had them fourth-and-8 and nobody made a play. They made a play and got the first down and that really hurt us."

Junior defensive back Jonathan Hefney led the team with 15 tackles and had a first-half interception to set up James Wilhoit's 24-yard field goal for UT's 10-7 halftime lead.

"It just hurts," Hefney said. "We know what we were trying to accomplish and where we were trying to go."

"We were still trying to go to the SEC championship."

One drive dashed those hopes.

LSU finished with 81 offensive plays for 478 yards. By comparison, UT had 50 for 248.

Check out the time of possession: LSU 41 minutes, 06 seconds. UT 18:54.

"It felt like we were on the

field all day," Mayo said after a 12-tackle day in which he, at times, spelled injured middle linebacker Marvin Mitchell (shoulder).

"That was partially our fault. We gave up a third-and-20 play and a third-and-15 play. We've just got to convert better in those situations."

Morley (eight tackles, including two for a loss) and Antwan Stewart came though with key second-half interceptions. Morley ran his back 31 yards for a TD to give UT a 17-7 lead early in the third quarter.

Junior linebacker Ryan Karl recovered a Dwayne Bowe fumble to set up UT's go-ahead score on a 54-yard pass from Jonathan Crompton to Robert Meachem on the next play.

Only 7:29 remained and UT was up 24-21.

"I was actually thinking, why didn't it take them a few more plays than that (to score)," Karl said of UT's quick strike. "It's just disappointing, when the offense gave us the lead, that we couldn't go out there and finish it off."

Russell was simply too big and too clutch.

The Tigers' quarterback had been ripped for not winning big games on the road earlier this season against Auburn and Florida.

He came through this time.

"He was huge," UT defensive tackle Turk McBride said. "He could have one or two people on him and still throw the ball 50 or 60 yards."

"It's a major benefit for them to have a quarterback like that who can take those hits and still throw the ball like that."

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Wrong guy grabs LSU game-winner

BY MIKE GRIFFITH
knsgriff@aol.com

LSU receiver Early Doucet was right on time Saturday night in Neyland Stadium.

Doucet reeled in a 4-yard touchdown catch from Tigers quarterback JaMarcus Russell with nine seconds remaining to lift No. 13 LSU to a 28-24 victory over No. 8 Tennessee.

"I came across the back of the end zone and saw JaMarcus scramble, so I cut it back," said Doucet, a junior who had a career-high eight catches for 73 yards. "I didn't know Dwayne (Bowe) was coming from the other side."

Russell, who led the Tigers (7-2, 3-2 SEC) with 71 yards rushing on seven carries and completed 24 of 36 passes for 247 yards with three touchdowns and three interceptions, said the pass was actually intended for Bowe.

"I guess Early decided it was for him and made the catch," said Russell, who had called for "One X-Drage" in the huddle.

Doucet was, however, the primary receiver on a pivotal play earlier in the drive when Russell converted a fourth-and-8 pass down to the Vols' 34 with 2:15 remaining.

"The other guy (Demetrice Morley) had his hand on the ball," said Doucet, who ran a crossing route on the pivotal fourth down conversion. "I just wrestled it away from him."

Doucet, who was the only LSU receiver to catch a pass on the Tigers' winning drive (five catches, 40 yards) said he was surprised UT wasn't paying more attention to him.

"On some of the bubble screens they wouldn't cover me," Doucet said. "We ran it more than one time. I figured they would catch on to it, but they didn't."

The Vols (7-2, 3-2) also had trouble catching — and tackling — the 6-foot-6, 260-pound Russell.

"I just knew I had to fight and sacrifice my body and do what it took," said Russell, who has engineered seven fourth quarter/overtime comeback victories. "I was trying to put my team in better position."

Russell was forced out of the game in the first quarter, missing LSU's second offensive series with a possible concussion.

"I caught a knee to the back of the head," Russell said. "I kinda got dizzy. I knew I had to get back in and sacrifice myself for my teammates."

LSU coach Les Miles said Russell did what he expected.

"That's just JaMarcus Russell," Miles said. "JaMarcus Russell will play his rear end off until the end of the game."

Tiger Defense: LSU defensive coordinator Bo Pelini said the Tigers didn't blitz as much as usual because that would have been playing into Tennessee's hands.

"You have to go with what's there, and they were protecting with seven guys and throwing the ball quick," Pelini said. "You can bang your head up against the wall to get pressure and still not get there in time."

UT completed 12 of 30 passes for 186 yards with an interception and ran 20 times for 62 yards.

Pelini said the Tigers had to adjust to backup quarterback Jonathan Crompton's style at halftime.

"We talked to the defensive line about being smart," Pelini said. "The guy was antsy on his feet and wanted to break the pocket."

Pelini said Crompton's performance was impressive, but he doesn't see the Vols with a quarterback controversy.

"(Crompton) did a nice job, but (Erik) Ainge has earned the spot," Pelini said. "You watch what he's done this year, he's a very good player."

"Coach (Phillip) Fulmer and coach (David) Kutcliffe, they're smart enough to know Ainge is their guy."

Miles Complains: Miles joked his eyesight must be going bad if Morley didn't touch a bounding punt that went into the end zone.

"I saw that ball move when that hand went by it," Miles said. "If it did, the instant replay guy cannot wear home goggles."

Miles indicated his sense of time must also be off, as UT got two plays off in the final five seconds.

"A guy throws the ball and gets two plays in five seconds," he said, "they need to talk to the clock guy, too."

Tiger Bites: Florida remains the only team to score on LSU in the first quarter this season. ... Russell's 41 career TD passes put him second on LSU's all-time list. ... Russell's 34-yard scramble was the longest of his career.

Mississippi State shocks Alabama

Croom beats former team for first SEC road win

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Sylvester Croom only wished his father was still around to be part of such a joyous homecoming.

"He'd have that big ol' smile on his face," the Mississippi State coach said of the late Rev. Sylvester Croom Sr. "I know he's smiling anyway."

Michael Henig passed for 143 yards and two touchdowns and Mississippi State beat Alabama 24-16 on Saturday to give Croom his first victory over his alma mater.

"I feel so thankful. I feel blessed, having grown up in this town, having played

at the University of Alabama and having coached the Mississippi State football team to this win," said Croom, the SEC's first black head football coach.

Croom played at Alabama for coach Paul "Bear" Bryant in the early 1970s. He interviewed for the Alabama head coaching job in 2003 but the Tide hired coach Mike Shula instead. Later that year, Croom was hired by Mississippi State, but he's had few highlights since. He is 9-23, but win No. 9 might have been his most satisfying.

There were lots of smiles on the Mississippi State sideline Saturday. Anthony Dixon ran for 121 yards for the Bulldogs (3-7, 1-5 SEC), who snapped a 23-game SEC road losing streak and an 18-game skid against Western division rivals.

Mississippi State was a two-touchdown underdog against the Crimson Tide (6-4, 2-4), which had not lost at home this season.

It was also a happy homecoming for Henig, a native of Montgomery.

"There's nothing better than this for me," Henig said. "I've got a lot of friends who go here. It's a 360 type game. It turns our whole season around. If I could have picked one game to win this year this would have been it."

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 24-10 halftime lead and then held the Crimson Tide to two second-half field goals. For the second consecutive year, Alabama didn't score an offensive touchdown against the Bulldogs. Last year, Alabama's defense scored both TDs in a 17-10 win. Boos could be heard from the Al-

abama crowd throughout the game and seemed mostly aimed at running back Kenneth Darby, the Crimson Tide's third leading rusher of all time. Darby has had only two 100-yard rushing games this season and has not scored a touchdown. He carried the ball 13 times for 54 yards Saturday.

"We are all down and disappointed. We all know we could have played better today," Shula said.

Mississippi State rushed for 131 yards against the Tide, with most of the yards coming from Dixon in the first half. The Bulldogs entered the game ranked 110th nationally in rushing, averaging 78 yards per game.

Alabama continued its struggles in the red zone, failing to get a touchdown in four trips inside the 20.



JAMES CRISP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky fans climb aboard the Wildcats' football bandwagon by tearing down a goal post Saturday at Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington, Ky., after a 24-20 victory over Georgia ended a nine-game losing streak against the Bulldogs.

Goal post goes way of streak

Kentucky celebrates end of futility vs. Georgia, 24-20

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Jeremy Jarmon pushed around Georgia offensive linemen all afternoon, but he was no match for an elated Homecoming crowd and a large piece of yellow metal.

Not since beating Alabama in 1997 had Kentucky fans forced their way onto the Commonwealth Stadium field and removed a goal post. It was a year earlier that Kentucky last accomplished what it did Saturday — a victory over defending SEC champions Georgia.

So, Jarmon knew the fans had cause, and he got out of the way.

"I was watching from a safe distance," Jarmon said. "It was a great feeling watching them take the goal post down. We deserve it as players. This city deserves it, and this university deserves it. They've waited a long time."

Kentucky's 24-20 comeback victory over the Bulldogs did more than just snap a nine-

game losing streak against an SEC titan.

It gave coach Rich Brooks a much-sought program-defining win, after his team came close but fell short earlier this season against Florida and South Carolina.

"This was obviously a real good SEC football game and, for a change, we were the ones that answered the bell," Brooks said.

Kentucky (5-4, 3-3 SEC) is now one win away from bowl eligibility. The disappointing Bulldogs (6-4, 3-4) had already been knocked out of contention for the SEC title after winning it three of the last four seasons.

Tony Dixon's 3-yard run with just more than a minute left provided the final margin.

Dixon, who was nursing a hamstring injury, saw little action until the fourth quarter, but he dominated the Wildcats' final drive. Even on short runs, he carried much larger defenders for additional yardage.

"I had fresh legs all week, and I tried to stay loose on the bike when I wasn't on the field," said Dixon, who carried the ball eight times for 47 yards in relief of starter Al-

fonso Smith.

Georgia had a little more than a minute left to mount a game-winning drive, but freshman quarterback Matthew Stafford threw his third interception, right into the hands of Kentucky cornerback Trevard Lindley.

"We knew if we put pressure on him, he would make mistakes," Lindley said of Stafford.

Stafford now has 12 interceptions this year, with four touchdown passes.

"They were just bad throws," Stafford said. "There is not much else I can say."

The Bulldogs took a 20-17 lead midway through the fourth quarter on a 3-yard scamper by Danny Ware. Kentucky could have settled for a game-tying field goal, but got the late touchdown instead.

Kentucky won for only the 11th time in 60 meetings between the two teams since 1939. The Wildcats' 24-17 victory in 1996 in Lexington was their last.

"Was that last year that we won the SEC championship?" said Georgia coach Mark Richt. "It seems so long ago. It's crazy, isn't it?"

McFadden's runs sends Arkansas by South Carolina

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. —Darren McFadden ran for a career-high 219 yards and two touchdowns and Marcus Monk had eight catches for a career-best 192 yards as No. 12 Arkansas beat South Carolina 26-20 on Saturday night.

The Razorbacks (8-1, 5-0 SEC) mostly stuck to what has kept them undefeated in the league so far — running the ball.

Arkansas rushed for 267 yards to pad their league-leading average of 235 yards a game.

South Carolina's offense got a spark

when backup quarterback Blake Mitchell took over to start the second half. The junior completed 15 of 21 passes for 213 yards, leading the Gamecocks (5-4, 3-4) on touchdown drives of 92 and 99 yards and cutting a 20-point deficit to 26-20 in the fourth quarter. Mitchell had been South Carolina's starter before senior Syvelle Newton took over in the third week.

But Mitchell finally made a mistake, throwing an interception to Darius Vinnett on an under-thrown ball with over five minutes to go with South Carolina down six and in Arkansas territory.

When the Razorbacks needed to, backup quarterback Casey Dick was able to throw the ball, going 11-for-19 for 228 yards.

All but three of those completions went to Monk, who had the three big catches — a 26-yard reception on third-and-10 and a 14-yard catch on third-and-8 to keep the Razorbacks' game-ending drive alive. He also had a 50-yard touchdown reception that bounced off a defender with two seconds to go in the first half.

Dick took over the offense after freshman starter Mitch Mustain threw an interception on Arkansas' first pos-

session.

Felix Jones ran 21 times for 53 yards and McFadden has gained more than a 1,000 yards in each of his seasons with Arkansas.

Sidney Rice caught seven passes for 126 yards and a touchdown and Kenny McKinley also had seven catches for 87 yards for the Gamecocks.

Arkansas has to win two of its last three games to win the Western Division, although the schedule isn't easy.

The Hogs host No. 8 Tennessee on Saturday and play at an improved Mississippi State before finishing the regular season against No. 13 LSU.

Florida clinches East

Associated Press

NASHVILLE — Urban Meyer and his Florida Gators care only about victories, not style points or pretty stats.

Chris Leak ran for two touchdowns and threw for another Saturday as the seventh-ranked Gators survived Vanderbilt's fourth-quarter rally for a 25-19 win, their 16th straight victory in the series.

"Winning's all that matters," Florida coach Urban Meyer said.

Maybe not. The Gators were fourth in the Bowl Championship Series standings last week and moving up won't be easy if they continue to play tight games.

"Are we playing all the time like a championship team? No," Meyer said. "Championship teams take a big swing at you in the third, fourth quarter and knock you down. We're not doing that."

With the win and a loss by Tennessee against LSU on Saturday, the Gators (8-1, 6-1 SEC) clinched the conference's Eastern Division title for the first time since 2000 and a berth in the league championship game.

Vanderbilt (4-6, 1-5) is making a habit of scaring the Gators. They took the Gators to double overtime last season in the Swamp.

The defense did its part by sacking Leak four times and intercepting him three times — a season-high for the Gators.

The Commodores scored 13 points in the fourth quarter against Florida, including a 31-yard touchdown catch by Earl Bennett with 2:30 left, to pull within 25-19. Not until Florida recovered an onside kick were the Gators in the clear.

"Deep down, I felt like we should have won this game," Bennett said.

Florida also came up with a key stop on fourth-and-2, tackling former Central High standout Cassen Jackson-Garrison short of the Gators' 9 with 6:06 left.

Florida was playing without senior tackle Marcus Thomas who was dismissed from the team. He ranked seventh in tackles for the Gators this season with 26 and had four sacks.

"Marcus did not meet his responsibilities and obligations to remain on the team," coach Meyer said in the statement.

Thomas had been suspended indefinitely in September for a second violation of the school's substance-abuse policy, but was reinstated in October.

SEC STANDINGS**EAST**

	SEC	All
Florida	6-1	8-1
Tennessee	3-2	7-2
Kentucky	3-3	5-4
Georgia	3-4	6-4
S. Carolina	3-4	5-4
Vanderbilt	1-5	4-6

WEST

	SEC	Overall
Arkansas	5-0	8-1
Auburn	5-1	9-1
LSU	3-2	7-2
Alabama	2-4	6-4
Ole Miss	1-5	3-7
Miss. State	1-5	3-7

Saturday's results

LSU 28, Tennessee 24
Mississippi St. 24, Alabama 16
Florida 25, Vanderbilt 19
Kentucky 24, Georgia 20
Ole Miss 27, Northwestern St. 7
Auburn 27, Arkansas State 0
Arkansas 26, South Carolina 20

Next Saturday's games

Tennessee at Arkansas, TBA
Georgia at Auburn, TBA
South Carolina at Florida, TBA
Vanderbilt at Kentucky, 1
Alabama at LSU, TBA

It's breeze for Auburn in tune-up

Ole Miss (3-7) equals win total for 2005

Associated Press

Brandon Cox passed for 251 yards and two touchdowns and No. 6 Auburn held Arkansas State to 177 total yards in a 27-0 victory Saturday in Auburn, Ala.

The Tigers (9-1) turned the ball over four times, but rolled to an easy win. They tried to pile up style points for positioning in the BCS standings in their tune-up for season-ending rivalry games against Georgia and Alabama.

"Offensively, it was the same old story," said Cox, who was 12-of-21 passing and fell 2 yards shy of his season-high in yards. "We put up some good numbers, but we still didn't put up enough points. We scored enough points to win but not enough to satisfy us."

Cox was intercepted twice and lost a fumble.

The Indians (5-4) gained 86 yards and four first downs in the first three quarters before finally starting to move the ball against Auburn's backups.

Courtney Taylor had four catches for 116 yards, all in the first half, and became the fourth Auburn receiver with 2,000 career yards. He had catches of 41 and 57 yards to set up first-half field goals.

Auburn tailback Kenny Irons, bothered by an ankle injury for much of the season, played only the opening series.

Freshman Ben Tate gained 93 yards on 11 carries, and Brad Lester added 62 on 12 carries for Auburn.

The Indians finally drove into Auburn territory against reserve defenders in the fourth quarter, then had a botched snap on a 19-yard field-goal attempt foil their best scoring chance.

Ole Miss 27, Northwestern State 7: BenJarvus Green-Ellis rushed for 116 yards and a touchdown as the Rebels snapped a three-game losing streak at Oxford, Miss.

Ole Miss (3-7) rolled up 401 yards in total offense with Green-Ellis and backup Bruce Hall accounting for 201 on the ground.

Brent Schaeffer, who transferred to Ole Miss after starting his career at Tennessee, completed 13-of-23 passes for 175 yards and a touchdown as the Rebels matched last season's win total by grinding down the Division I-AA Demons (4-5).

The clubs swapped touchdowns on the opening series.

Green-Ellis scored on a 6-yard run to give the Rebels a 7-0 edge. Northwestern State answered with its best series. The Demons covered 85 yards in five plays and scored on a 4-yard pass from Roch Charpentier to Dudley Guice.

Ole Miss led 17-7 at halftime after Joshua Shene connected on a career-best 52-yard field goal and Hall scored on a 22-yard run.

Notre Dame keeps winning ugly, 45-26

Irish top Tar Heels, extend record to 8-1

Associated Press

Notre Dame keeps winning — just not as impressively as many expect.

Brady Quinn threw for a season-high 346 yards and four touchdowns and the 11th-ranked Fighting Irish beat North Carolina 45-26 on Saturday at South Bend, Ind.

Notre Dame improved to 8-1 for the first time since 2002, when the Irish won their first eight games under Tyrone Willingham. It marks the first time the Irish have won at least eight games in back-to-back seasons since 1996.

The Tar Heels (1-8) fell to 1-16 all-time against the Irish and lost their second straight since Bunting was fired.

Quinn, who completed 23-of-35 passes, also threw an 11-yard TD pass to John Carlson and TD passes of 7 and 14 yards to Rhema McKnight.

Jeff Samardzija had six catches for 177 yards and a touchdown. It was his 23rd career touchdown catch, breaking the Irish record set by Derrick Mayes in 1995.

Southern Cal 42, Stanford 0: John David Booty threw three touchdown passes in the second quarter and Terrell Thomas scored on a 71-yard blocked field goal return to help No. 9 USC roll over winless Stanford.

Booty went 12-for-21 for 203 yards, Dwayne Jarrett caught five passes for 118 yards and a touchdown, and the Trojans



JOE RAYMOND/ASSOCIATED PRESS
North Carolina quarterback Cam Sexton is sacked by Notre Dame's Derek Landri, top, and Chris Frome. The Irish defeated the Tar Heels 45-26 on Saturday.

(7-1, 5-1 Pac-10) finally had a laugh.

The Cardinal (0-9, 0-6) lost their 11th consecutive game to match a school record.

Oregon 34, Washington 14: Jonathan Stewart ran for 159 yards and two touchdowns

as the No. 24 Ducks rolled up 316 yards on the ground and beat the Cougars at Eugene, Ore.

Patrick Chung opened the scoring with a 59-yard punt return for a touchdown and had an interception for Oregon (7-2, 4-2 Pac-10).



JOHN MANIACI/ASSOCIATED PRESS
Penn State coach Joe Paterno suffered a leg injury after Wisconsin's DeAndre Levy, right, pushed Nittany Lion Andrew Quarless out of bounds.

Paterno feels Penn State's pain

Coach suffers leg injury in 13-3 defeat at Wisconsin

Associated Press

Joe Paterno literally couldn't stand to watch as No. 17 Wisconsin beat Penn State 13-3 on Saturday in Madison, Wis.

The 79-year-old Nittany Lions coach was forced to leave the sideline for the second time this season after one of his players tumbled into his leg.

Wisconsin (9-1, 6-1 Big Ten) scored the first touchdown given up by Penn State's defense in more than two games, and kept the Nittany Lions' offense under control. Penn State (6-4, 4-3) squandered several scoring chances.

Tight end Andrew Quarless rolled into Paterno after catching a pass.

Trainers wrapped Paterno's leg and he was carted off. He was to have his leg X-rayed.

Ohio St. 17, Illinois 10: Top-ranked Ohio State got its first scare of the season at Champaign, Ill.

The Buckeyes built a 17-0 halftime lead against Illinois and overcame a ho-hum performance by its offense to hold off the stub-

born Illini.

The Buckeyes (10-0, 6-0, Big Ten) had won each of their first nine games by at least 17 points.

Rashard Mendenhall's 3-yard TD run with 1:40 to go brought Illinois within striking distance.

Ohio State's Brian Robiskie's recovered an onside kick by the Illini.

Illinois (2-8, 1-5) got the ball at its 2 with four seconds left. The Illini completed a short pass and the receiver made a lateral. But there was no miracle to be found.

Illinois didn't play like a team that has lost five in a row. The Illini clamped down on the Buckeyes' running game and contained Troy Smith, who completed 13-of-23 passes for 108 yards and rushed for 37 more on 11 carries.

Michigan 34, Ball State 26: Ball State threw an incomplete pass into the end zone with 2:46 left and couldn't connect on a heave from midfield on the final play, allowing the second-ranked Wolverines (10-0) to escape at home.

Mike Hart ran for 154 yards and a TD and Brandon Minor rushed for 108 yards and another score to help the Wolverines avoid a shocking upset.

Texas 36, Oklahoma State 10: Colt McCoy threw three touchdowns passes to break the Texas single-season record and the No. 4 Longhorns stayed in control of the Big 12 South with a win over the visiting Cowboys (5-4, 2-3).

McCoy also had a career-high 346 yards on 23-of-29 passing for Texas (9-1, 6-0).

McCoy's 27 touchdown passes broke the school mark of 26 shared by Vince Young (2005) and Chris Simms (2002).

McCoy had a career night, but Bobby Reid had a miserable time for Oklahoma State. The nation's third-rated passer was 11-of-28 for 123 yards and two interceptions and consistently missed open receivers.

Oklahoma 17, Texas A&M 16: Allen Patrick ran for a career-high 173 yards and the No. 18 Sooners (7-2, 4-1) converted a fourth-and-inches from their 29 to sealed the Big 12 win over the No. 21 Aggies (8-2, 4-2) at College Station, Texas.

Patrick has 440 yards rushing in the three games since replacing Adrian Peterson, who is out with a broken collarbone. The Aggies got two late field goals to close the gap, but were foiled by their inability to convert two second-half turnovers by Oklahoma into points.

Dennis Dixon completed 14-of-25 passes for 109 yards for the Ducks, but the Huskies (4-6, 2-5) capitalized on his two interceptions for their scores.

Arizona 27, Washington State 17: Chris Henry ran for 94 yards and two touchdowns on a school-record 35 carries and the Wildcats limited No. 25 Washington State to 45 yards rushing and won in Pullman, Wash.

Arizona quarterback Willie Tuitama completed 10-of-17 passes for 159 yards and a touchdown.

The Wildcats (4-5, 2-4 Pac-10) helped set up one score by forcing a fumble and they sacked Alex Brink four times.

Brink completed 18-of-33 for 265 yards and a touchdown for the Cougars (6-4, 4-3).

California 38, UCLA 24: Marshawn Lynch caught one of Nate Longshore's three touchdown passes and ran for another score as the No. 10 Golden Bears won their eighth in a row after a season-opening loss to Tennessee.

Robert Jordan had two touchdown catches and DeSean Jackson romped 72 yards on his school-record fourth TD punt return for Cal (8-1, 6-0 Pac-10), which moved a step closer to its first conference title since 1975.

Longshore was 20-of-24 for 266 yards, and Lynch had 126 total yards.

Patrick Cowan passed for 329 yards and ran for a score in his fourth start for the Bruins (4-5, 2-4), who outgained Cal 516-433, but repeatedly failed to capitalize on drives.

Maryland ambushes Clemson

Associated Press

Dan Ennis kicked a 31-yard field goal as time ran out, lifting visiting Maryland to its fourth consecutive victory, a 13-12 win over No. 19 Clemson on Saturday that kept the Terps alive in the Atlantic Coast Conference title race.

The Terps (7-2, 4-1 ACC) used the same blueprint as Virginia Tech to keep Clemson's powerful running game in check. But it looked like it wouldn't matter after Jad Dean kicked his fourth field goal with 2:25 left to put the Tigers (7-3, 4-3) ahead 12-10.

But Sam Hollenbach drove Maryland 54 yards to Clemson's 12 — converting a fourth-and-inches with his sneak — to set up Ennis' game winner.

Wake Forest 21, Boston College 14: Kevin Marion had an 81-yard touchdown run and Patrick Ghee intercepted a pass in the end zone as the No. 22 Demon Deacons (8-1, 4-1, ACC) held off the No. 16 Eagles (0) at Winston-Salem, N.C.

Matt Ryan set career highs by completing 40-of-57 passes for 402 yards and a touchdown, but had two interceptions for the Eagles (7-2, 3-2).

Jyles Tucker had two sacks and forced a key fourth-quarter fumble and the Demon Deacons limited the Eagles to 28 yards rushing to move to 8-1 for the first time since 1944, tying a school record for victories in a season.

Virginia Tech 17, Miami 10: Brandon Ore ran for two touchdowns, including an 8-yard game-winner with 1:39 left to carry the No. 23 Hokies (7-2, 4-2) to an ACC win at Miami.

Ore's scores were set up by Miami interceptions and he finished with 79 yards on 28 carries.

Tyrone Moss had 103 yards on 13 carries, including a 50-yard touchdown run, for the Hurricanes (5-4, 2-3) and Jon Peattie kicked a 55-yard field goal.

Georgia Tech 31, N.C. State 23: Reggie Ball threw four touchdown passes two to Calvin Johnson and No. 20 Georgia Tech defeated the Wolfpack (3-6, 2-4) in an ACC game at Raleigh, N.C.

Tashard Choice had a career-high 164 yards rushing on 34 carries for the Yellow Jackets.

Ball was 13-of-35 passing for 215 yards with two interceptions and Johnson had nine catches for a personal-best 168 yards for the Yellow Jackets (7-2, 5-1).

Ball had scoring passes covering 25 and 43 yards to Johnson, the league's leading receiver, and added touchdowns passes covering 25 and 7 yards to James Johnson.

The Wolfpack led 23-21 on John Deraney's third field goal of the game, a 32-yarder on the final play of the third quarter.

Carson-Newman rebounds from doldrums

Eagles shock Wingate on senior day, 52-14

BY LARUE COOK
Special to the News Sentinel

JEFFERSON CITY — Unranked and downtrodden after a 28-7 loss to Presbyterian last week, Carson-Newman College was beginning to look the part of a middle-of-the-pack team in the South Atlantic Conference.

But on Saturday against 24th-ranked Wingate, the Eagles found more than a semblance of offense, shocking the No. 2 team in the SAC 52-14 on senior day at Burke-Tarr Stadium.

With co-starting quarterback Alex Good out with an ankle injury, Alex Rouse was the lone quarterback for the first time this season and the Eagles (7-3, 3-3 SAC) had their largest offensive output of the year. In his solo debut, the sophomore gained 60 yards on 13 carries and went 8-of-16 passing for 159 yards and two scores.

"We just came out busting it," said Rouse, a former Maryville High standout. "We wanted to have fun because we hadn't been having much fun lately. I told the guys just to go out and enjoy it because we don't have anything to lose."

The Bulldogs (7-3, 4-2) struck first on their second play from scrimmage with a 59-yard pass from Anthony Metzelaars to Dan Brooks to go up 7-0. That would be Wingate's only lead.

Rouse tied the score on the ensuing 11-play drive, hitting freshman Stephen Childs from 18 yards, and C-N scored 38 consecutive points before Metzelaars found Brooks again for Wingate's final score with fewer than five minutes to play.

"That might have been the key to the game," coach Ken Sparks said of his team's answer to Wingate's early score. "They came back and scored, and I

think they fed off that. Last week (against Presbyterian) we didn't answer anything and this week we answered everything."

C-N had three one-play scoring drives — a 49-yard pass from Rouse to Reggie Hubbard in the second, a 33-yard run around end by freshman Buck Wakefield on the next possession, and a 25-yard run by senior Jeremy Arrington that put the Eagles up 42-7.

Sparks credited the complete about-face to nothing more than an improved offensive line.

"I think the biggest difference is we won the line of scrimmage, and when you do

that good things happen," Sparks said. "It really is what's up front that matters in football."

Anchored by juniors Matt Tyrell and Nate Skellenger and senior James Peremenis, the line created enough gaping holes for Wakefield and Arrington to combine for 145 yards on 16 carries and four scores.

"Exactly," Wakefield said when asked if the offensive line was the key. "The offensive line was tremendous; it was definitely their best game of the season."

C-N racked up 448 yard of total offense, while the defense

forced Metzelaars, who has passed for more than 2,000 yards this season, into three interceptions and one fumble.

A.J. Brown picked off two, senior Brandon Walden made the ninth interception of his career and Denares Waites got the fourth with an interception of backup J.D. Moore.

Junior linebacker Eric Rice led the defense with five tackles, two forced fumbles, two recoveries and a sack.

The Eagles will close out the season Saturday when they travel 50 miles to Greenville for a 1:30 p.m. kickoff against in-state rival Tusculum College.

Victory places 'Huskers in Big 12 North driver's seat

Associated Press

Receiver Maurice Purify threw a touchdown pass and caught another and Nebraska took sole possession of first place in the Big 12 North with a 34-20 victory over Missouri on Saturday in Lincoln, Neb.

The Cornhuskers (7-3, 4-2 Big 12) beat Missouri for the 15th consecutive time in Lincoln and can clinch a berth in the conference championship game with a win over either Texas A&M next week or Colorado on Nov. 24.

Nebraska had anxious moments against the Tigers (7-3, 3-3) after scoring on five of seven possessions to go up 27-6.

Nebraska's Zac Taylor threw two touchdown passes to run his season total to 20, matching the 30-year-old school record set by Vince Feragamo. Taylor was 13-of-21 for 208 yards.

Texas Tech 55, Baylor 21: Graham Harrell threw for four touchdowns — three of them to Joel Filani — and 483 yards to lead the Red Raiders (6-4, 3-3 Big 12) over the Bears (4-6, 3-3).

Kansas State 34, Colorado 21: Josh Freeman completed 22 of 26 passes for 251 yards and two touchdowns to lift the Wildcats (6-4, 3-3 Big 12) over the Buffs (1-9, 1-5) in Boulder, Colo., that made Kansas State bowl eligibility in coach Ron Prince's first season.

Kansas 41, Iowa St. 10: Kerry Meier threw two touchdown passes and backup Todd Reesing led Kansas (5-5, 2-4 Big 12) to two more scores at the Cyclones (3-7, 0-6).

Minnesota 63, Indiana 26: Bryan Cupito passed for 378 yards and four scores as the Gophers (4-6, 1-5 Big Ten) defeated the visiting Hoosiers (5-5, 2-3), scoring the most points in a Big Ten contest for the first time in 90 years.

Northwestern 21, Iowa 7: C.J. Bacher threw for 218 yards and a touchdown, Tyrell Sutton added 168 yards rushing and the visiting Wildcats (3-7, 1-5 Big Ten) stunned the Hawkeyes (6-4, 2-4) to end a six-game losing streak.

Purdue 17, Michigan St. 15: Curtis Painter threw two touchdown passes and Casey Welch kicked an 18-yard field goal with 4:49 left to lead the Boilermakers (6-4, 3-3 Big Ten) at the Spartans (4-6, 1-5).

The loss was another blow to struggling Michigan State, which announced Wednesday that head coach John L. Smith will not return next season.

South Florida 22, Pittsburgh 12: Matt Grothe ran for one touchdown and threw for a second before limping off with a foot injury, helping the Bulls (6-3, 2-2 Big East) become bowl eligible by beating the Panthers (6-3, 2-2) at Tampa, Fla.

Pittsburgh coach Dave Wannstedt suspended tight end Darrell Strong indefinitely after a touchdown celebration in he appeared to make

an obscene gesture to the crowd.

Navy 38, Duke 13: Kaipo-Noa Kaheaku-Enhada ran for 119 yards and a touchdown and threw for a score to lead the Midshipmen (6-3) over the Blue Devils (0-9) at Durham, N.C.

Florida St. 33, Virginia 0: Tony Carter returned an interception 35 yards for a touchdown 74 seconds into the game, and the Seminoles (5-4, 3-4 ACC) snapped a two-game skid by blanking the Cavaliers (4-6, 3-3) at Tallahassee, Fla.

Central Michigan 42, Temple 26: Dan LeFevour threw four touchdown passes and ran for a fifth as the Chippewas (6-3) defeated the Owls (1-9) in Philadelphia for their fourth consecutive win to become bowl eligible.

Houston 27, Tulsa 10: Anthony Aldridge rushed for 136 yards and a touchdown to help the Cougars defeat the visiting Golden Hurricane and end Tulsa's six-game winning streak.

Houston (7-3, 5-1 Conference USA) scored on consecutive drives at the end of the first half and the start of the second half to win its third in a row and move past Tulsa (7-2, 4-1) into first place in the West Division.

Marshall 42, Tulane 21: Jimmy Skinner, Marshall's backup quarterback, played his third straight game in relief after Bernard Morris got hurt, threw three fourth-quarter touchdown passes, lifting the Thundering Herd (4-5, 3-2 C-USA) over the visiting Green Wave (3-6, 1-4).

It was the third straight win for Marshall. "He stepped in and did a great job again tonight," said Marshall coach Mark Snyder. "You talk about poise and character. You can tell he's been around for a long time"

East Carolina 23, Central Florida 10: Brandon Fractious rushed for a career-high 128 yards and one touchdown, and cornerback Kasey Ross returned an interception 51 yards for a touchdown in the final minute to help the Pirates (5-4, 4-2 C-USA) beat the Golden Knights (2-7, 1-4) at Orlando.

Hawaii 63, Utah St. 10: Colt Brennan threw for 413 yards and six touchdowns while setting two school records as the Warriors (7-2, 5-1 Western Athletic Conference) won at Utah State (1-8, 1-4).

Oregon St. 44, Arizona St. 10: Yvenson Bernard rushed for two touchdowns, Matt Moore accounted for two scores and the Beavers (6-3, 4-2 Pac-10) beat the visiting Sun Devils (5-4, 2-4).

Wyoming 27, San Diego St. 24: Joseph Harris scored two touchdowns and Devin Moore rushed for 131 yards to lead the Cowboys (5-5, 4-2 Mountain West) against the visiting Aztecs (1-7, 1-3).

BYU 24, Colorado St. 3: Fui Vakapuna ran for two touchdowns and Manase Tonga ran in a third as the Cougars (7-2, 5-0 Mountain West) turned to their ground game to beat the Rams (4-5, 1-4) in Fort Collins Colo.

Tusculum climbs over Mars Hill

Staff and wire reports

Tusculum College rallied with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter as the Pioneers won at Mars Hill College 24-17 Saturday afternoon at Mearnes Stadium.

Tusculum (6-4, 3-3 South Atlantic Conference) clinched its sixth winning season in the last seven years and beat the Lions (4-6, 1-5) for the fourth consecutive time.

Jamichael Caldwell scored the game-winning touchdown with 9:06 left on a 64-yard pass play from Corey Russell.

Caldwell's 13th career touchdown catch matched the all-time school record held by Matt Riggs.

Russell finished with two TDs and ran for another.

The Tusculum defense established a school record as it limited the Lions to minus-50 yards rushing.

Jeremy Thompson was brilliant in his return to the Tusculum lineup with eight tackles, including four behind the line of scrimmage and a forced fumble.

Tennessee Tech 20, Samford 14: Lee Sweeney threw for 232 yards and two touchdowns to lead Tennessee Tech in Birmingham, Ala.

Tennessee Tech (3-6, 3-3 Ohio Valley Conference) ended a three-game losing streak, while Samford (3-7, 1-6) lost its final home game of the season.

Leading 13-7 in the third quarter, the Golden Eagles moved 71 yards in four plays with Sweeney hitting Larry Shipp down the middle for a 57-yard score. It was Shipp's sixth TD catch of the season and Sweeney's 12th scoring pass in his rookie season.

Derek White and Anthony Ash each rushed for more than 100 yards for Tennessee Tech and Shipp had 121 receiving yards.

SAC STANDINGS

Team	SAC	Overall
Newberry	6-0	10-0
Wingate	4-2	6-3
Presbyterian	4-2	6-4
Carson-Newman	3-3	7-3
Tusculum	3-3	6-4
Mars Hill	1-4	4-5
Catawba	2-4	5-4
Lenoir-Rhyne	0-5	2-7

Saturday's Results
Carson-Newman 52, Wingate 14
Tusculum 24, Mars Hill 17
Catawba 21, Presbyterian 14
Newberry 45, Lenoir-Rhyne 21

Next Saturday's games
Carson-Newman at Tusculum, 1:30
Newberry at Presbyterian, 1:30
Mars Hill at Wingate, 1:30
Catawba at Lenoir-Rhyne, 7

Middle Tennessee St. 35, Florida Atlantic 14: Eugene Gross rushed for a career-high 208 yards and scored two TDs and the Blue Raiders beat the Owls (3-6, 2-2 Sun Belt) in Murfreesboro.

Gross capped an 85-yard scoring drive in the first quarter with a 2-yard touchdown to give Middle Tennessee State (6-3, 5-0) a 7-0 lead. Then with 44 seconds left before halftime, Gross scored on a 56-yard touchdown run.

At the beginning of the second half, Middle Tennessee's Damon Nickson returned the kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown.

The Blue Raiders, who rushed for 271 yards on the ground, improved to 5-0 in conference play for the first time since 1992 (an 8-0 start in the OVC).

Jacksonville St. 13, Chattanooga 10: Clay Green rushed for 163 yards and a touchdown to lift Jacksonville State (5-4) at Chattanooga.

Chattanooga (3-7) had a chance to tie the game with nine seconds left to play. But instead of kicking a 25-yard field goal, Chattanooga opted for a pass play that fell short at the 3-yard line.

Chattanooga suffered a blow in the second quarter when

starting tailback Eldra Buckley suffered a right ankle injury. He entered the game 68 yards short of the single-season rushing record he set last year at 1,233 yards.

UT Martin 28, SE Missouri 14: Don Chapman rushed for 225 yards and three touchdowns on 36 carries to lead No. 10 Tennessee Martin (8-1, 5-0 OVC) railed at Southeast Missouri State (4-5, 2-4).

The Skyhawks, the 10th-ranked team in NCAA Division I-AA, trailed 14-7 but tied the game on a 100-yard kickoff return by Jessie Burton to begin the second half. Chapman then scored twice in the quarter on 3- and 1-yard runs.

Eastern Illinois 29, Tennessee St. 3: Running back Vincent Webb scored three touchdowns and Eastern Illinois (6-4, 5-1 OVC) shut down Tennessee State's offense.

Webb carried 22 times for 82 yards and two touchdowns, and caught six passes for 46 yards and another score. Ademola Adeniji added 98 yards on 16 carries.

Tennessee State tailback Javaris Williams was held to 38 yards on 15 carries. He entered the game as the Ohio Valley Conference's top rusher, averaging more than 130 yards per game.

Richard Hartman completed 19-of-32 passes for 162 yards and was intercepted twice for Tennessee State (5-4, 4-1).

North Greenville 44, Austin Peay 35: Austin Peay (2-7) led 21-14 at halftime but Matt Moore had back-to-back TD runs, including a 58-yard rush in the third quarter for the Crusaders (8-2). Moore finished with 214 yards and three TDs.

Austin Peay's Chris Fletcher scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, but the Govs couldn't stop the Crusaders.

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