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TENNESSEE 31, AIR FORCE 30

Surviving Air scare



AMY SMOTHERMAN-BURGESS/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee wide receiver Robert Meachem waits with open arms to catch a touchdown pass over Air Force defensive back Chris Sutton in Saturday night's game at Neyland Stadium. Meachem caught two scoring passes in the Vols' 31-30 victory.

Vols need stop on conversion to avoid upset

BY MIKE STRANGE

Better late than never. Tennessee couldn't stop Air Force all night — until it mattered most.

The 11th-ranked Vols escaped a monumental upset Saturday night, holding off the Falcons 31-30 before a nerve-wracked crowd of 105,466 at Neyland Stadium. An evening of unflinching offense boiled down to

whether the Falcons could pull off a two-point conversion after a touchdown with one minute, **ON GOVOLS.COM**

35 seconds to play. ■ An audio slide show of the

And there was every reason to think they For once, though,

Air Force-Tennessee game.

there was a Tennessee defender in the right spot. Xavier Mitchell carved his niche in UT football lore when he dragged down Air Force back Chad Hall on a pitch play, foiling the Falcons' attempt to take a 32-31

After a final bit of drama, the Vols managed to run out the clock and head into Florida week unscathed at

Both defensive units were the polar opposite of un-

Erik Ainge threw for a career-high 333 yards and three touchdowns as the Vols rolled up 412 yards of to-

See VOLS on VR4

Another week, another game full of surprises

Air Force coach Fisher DeBerry had no doubts about his team's last drive.

"I knew we were going to score," he said. And he knew what he would do next. He would reduce the game to one two-point conversion.

Falcons came that close to shaking Rocky Top to its core Saturday night at Neyland Stadium. One play and one point: That's

One play: DeBerry and his

all that stood between the 20point-underdog Falcons and 11thranked Tennessee. Go figure.

The play was one of the few that **ADAMS** didn't work for Air Force. It was a pitch to wingback Chad Hall, who already had gained 81 yards on 11 carries against a bewildered UT defense.

But when Xavier Mitchell busted up the play behind the line, UT had a 31-30 victory, and DeBerry had no regrets.

"Give him credit," DeBerry said. "He made a great

Give the Air Force credit, too. Never mind all the disadvantages that a service-academy team has to overcome to compete in big-time college football.

See **ADAMS** on VR4

SCOREBOARD

No. 8 LSU 45, Arizona 3

No. 1 Ohio State 24, No. 2 Texas 7 No. 4 Notre Dame 41, No. 19 Penn St. 17 No. 4 Auburn 34, Mississippi St. 0 No. 6 West Virginia 52, E. Washington 3 No. 7 Florida 42, UCF 0

No. 9 Florida State 24, Troy 17 No. 10 Michigan 41, Central Michigan 17 No. 11 Tennessee 31, Air Force 30

No. 12 Georgia 18, South Carolina O No. 13 Louisville 62, Temple 0 No. 14 Iowa 20, Syracuse 13, OT No. 15 Oklahoma 37, Washington 20 No. 16 Virginia Tech 35, North Carolina 10 No. 17 Miami 51, Florida A&M 10 Boston College 34, No. 18 Clemson 33, OT No. 20 Oregon at Fresno State, late No. 21 Nebraska 56, Nicholls State 7 No. 22 California 42, Minnesota, 17 No. 23 TCU 46, UC Davis 13

No. 24 Texas Tech 38, UTEP 35, OT No. 25 Arizona State vs. Nevada, late

TIME TO GO BEYOND PRECISION. ANY VOLUNTEERS?

Alabama 13, Vanderbilt 10 Missouri 34, Ole Miss 7 Kentucky 41, Texas State 7 Utah State at Arkansas, late

AREA

Carson-Newman 41, Shaw 7 Centre 17, Maryville 14 North Alabama 22, Tusculum 10





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TD

Sack

Long

45

YOUR

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

"Must be hard for that D to follow who has the ball. I bet Chavis and Fulmer are rushing to make some changes on how to stop this run."

Troy

7:33 PM

"Take away a couple of drops and Ainge would be on track to challenge Martin's completion record."

invisiblekid 8:16 PM

■ "What a thrill it was to see the 1956 Volunteers again! We got an old black and white Columbia TV set that year, so this was the UT team that I first remember seeing."

SAVol 8:32 PM

"How can the line judge miss calling that??? Now Fulmer has lost his challenge. Jeesh!!"

invisiblekid 8:56 PM

"Dang! One more TD would have helped nail the coffin for the Falcons."

CrankE 9:34 PM

"Great seeing Inky move his left arm. I feared a cord injury, and it still could be, but no worse than a spinal contusion."

SAVol

"A great big salute to the **United States** Air Force Academy. I think we're officially off cloud 9 now.'

CrankE 10:06 PM

"Xavier Mitchell...THE X FACTOR!!!! Whew!!!!

stagevol 10:43 PM

STATISTICS

AIR FORCE INDIVIDUAL											
RUSHING											
Ryan Williams Chad Hall Shaun Carney Chad Smith Scott Peeples Justin Handley Totals	No 16 11 17 4 2 1 51	Gain 99 81 64 47 4 2 297	1 0 12 3 0 0 16	98 81 52 44 4 2 281	10 2 1 1 0 0 0 4	28 21 17 31 2 2 31	Avg 6.1 7.4 3.1 11.0 2.0 2.0 5.5				
PASSING											
Shaun Carney Totals		Att-C	3-7-0 9-7-0	Yds 127 127	TD 0 0	Long 35 35	Sack 1				

RECEIVING				
Justin Handley Beau Suder Spencer Armstrong Travis Dekker Vic Thompson Chad Hall Totals	No. 2 1 1 1 1 1 7	Yds 35 35 24 12 11 10 127	TD 0 0 0 0 0 0	24 35 24 12 11 10 35
PIINTING				

In20

0

ALL RETU	ALL RETURNS												
Punts				K	ickoffs		In	Intercept					
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg				
Jim Ollis	0	0	Ō	2	42	27	0	0	Ō				
Ty Paffett	0	0	0	1	17	17	0	0	0				
Julian Madrid	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	12				
Totals	0	0	0	3	59	27	1	12	12				

64 64

PLACEKICKING	3				
Field goals	Zach Sasser	2nd	13:31	22 yds	Good
Kickoffs	No	Yds	ТВ	ОВ	Avg
Zach Sasser	4	215	0	0	53.8

r	U	IV	R	L	E
1	No	ne			

Christopher Carp

Totals...

D	E	F	E	N	S	E
_						

	_										
Player	Solo	Ast	Tot T	FL/Yds	FF	FR-Yo	Int	BUp	Blk	Sack	QBH
Drew Fowler	7	2	9								
Chris Sutton	5	4	9	1.0-2							
John Rabold	6	1	7	1.0-1							1
Bobby Giannini	4	2	6					1			
Garrett Rybak	5		5								
Joey Keller	4	1	5								
Julian Madrid	3	2	5				.1-12				

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
AIR FORCE	7	3	7	13 - 30
TENNESSEE	3	14	7	7 - 31

TEAM		
	AFA	UT
FIRST DOWNS	22	24
Rushing	15	7
Passing	7	16
Penalty	0	1
NET YARDS RUSHING	281	79
Rushing Attempts	51	32
Average Per Rush	5.5	2.5
Yards Gained Rushing	297	99
Yards Lost Rushing	16	20
NET YARDS PASSING	127	333
Completions-Attempts-Int	7-9-0	24-29-1
Average Per Attempt	14.1	11.5
Average Per Completion	18.1	13.9
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	408	412
Total offense plays	60	61
Average Gain Per Play	6.8	6.8
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	3-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	3-25	5-25
PUNTS-YARDS	2-64	0-0
Average Yards Per Punt	32.0	0.0
Net Yards Per Punt Inside 20	28.0 0	0.0
50+ Yards	0	0
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	0	0
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-215	6-389
Average Yards Per Kickoff	53.8	64.8
Net Yards Per Kickoff	48.2	45.0
Touchbacks	0	3
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	1-8-0
Average Per Return	0.0	8.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	3-59-0	3-22-0
Average Per Return	19.7	7.3
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-12-0	0-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	30:31	29:29
1st Quarter	12:28	2:32
2nd Quarter	5:08	9:52
3rd Quarter	3:00	12:00
4th Quarter	9:55	5:05
Third-Down Conversions	9 of 13	9 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	5-5 0-0	5-5 1-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards PAT Kicks	0-0 3-3	1-6 4-4
Field Goals	3-3 1-1	4-4 1-1
i icia dodis	1-1	1-1

TENNESSEE INDIVIDUAL RUSHING Gain loss Net

Montario Hardesty	19	73	1	72	1	10	3.8
Arian Foster	7	24	2	22	0	10	3.1
Cory Anderson	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0
Austin Rogers	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
TEAM	1	0	1	-1	0	0	-1.0
Erik Ainge	3	1	16	-15	0	1	-5.0
Totals	32	99	20	79	1	10	2.5
PASSING							

Att-Cmp-Int Yds TD Erik Ainge 3 Totals... 29-24-1 333

RECEIVING Long 115 74 69 Robert Meachem 44 24 Javson Swain 28 8 45 9 5 **Austin Rogers** 16 45 9 Chris Brown Lucas Taylor Montario Hardestv

PUNTING Yds In20 TB Avg Long Totals...

24

1st 07:00 35 yds

TB

OB

333

ALL RETURNS											
	Punts			K	ickoffs	i	Intercept				
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg		
Lucas Taylor	0	0	Ō	1	9	9	0	0	0		
J. Hefney	1	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0		
D. Morley	0	0	0	1	13	13	0	0	0		
TEAM	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Totals	1	0	0	2	22	12	0	0	\cap		

Lucas Taylor	U	U	U	1	9	9	U	U	(
J. Hefney	1	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	(
D. Morley	0	0	0	1	13	13	0	0	(
TEAM	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	(
Totals	1	8	8	3	22	13	0	0	(
PI ACEKI	CKI	NG							
LAVEINI	OIL	114							
Field goals									
rieia goais									

Kickoffs Yds No James Wilhoit

. Tennessee-TEAM 2-1; Lucas Taylor 1-0.

DEFENSE

FUMBLES

James Wilhoit

Cory Anderson

layer	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL/Yds	FF	FR-Yd	Int	BUp	Blk	Sack QBI
Hefney	8	9	17							
1 Mitchell	10	2	12	1.0-1						.1
erod Mayo	6	4	10	1.0-2						
urk McBride	5	4	9							
	Hefney 1 Mitchell erod Mayo	Hefney 8 1 Mitchell 10 erod Mayo 6	Hefney 8 9 1 Mitchell 10 2 erod Mayo 6 4	Hefney 8 9 17 1 Mitchell 10 2 12 erod Mayo 6 4 10	Hefney 8 9 17 . 1 Mitchell 10 2 12 1.0-1 erod Mayo 6 4 10 1.0-2	Hefney 8 9 17 1 Mitchell 10 2 12 1.0-1 . erod Mayo 6 4 10 1.0-2 .	Hefney 8 9 17	Hefney 8 9 17	Hefney 8 9 17	Hefney 8 9 17

HOW THEY SCORED

FIRST QUARTER

AIR FORCE 7, TENNESSEE 0

AF-Chad Hall 5-yard run on pitch to left side (Zach Sasser kick), 9:32.

Key plays-On third-and-4, quarterback Shaun Carney picks up 14 yards on draw to AF 48; Victory Thompson 11 pass from Carney to UT 35; fullback Ryan Williams 11 yards up middle to UT 24; Carney 17 run to UT 7.

Drive-10 plays, 72 yards, 5:28.

AIR FORCE 7, TENNESSEE 3

UT-James Wilhoit 35-yard field goal, 7:00.

Key plays-Austin Rogers 16 pass from Erik Ainge to UT 29; Arian Foster 10 run to UT 39; Robert Meachem 44 pass in stride from Ainge down the right sideline to AF 17; Drive stalls after 1 run from Foster, loss of 2 by Foster and a Meachem dropped pass from Ainge.

Drive-Seven plays, 69 yards, 2:22.

SECOND QUARTER

AIR FORCE 10, TENNESSEE 3

AF-Sasser 22-yard field goal, 13:31.

Key plays-On third-and-1, Hall 3 run to AF 32; Hall 10 pass from Carney to AF 42; On third-and-7, Beau Suder 35 pass from Carney down left slot to UT 20; On third-and-6, Williams 7 run up middle to UT 9; Drive stalls when UT linebacker Marvin Mitchell pressures Carney into incompletion at UT 4.

Drive-14 plays, 76 yards, 8:23.

TENNESSEE 10, AIR FORCE 10

UT-Meachem 4 pass from Ainge to right side (Wilhoit kick), 5:47.

Key plays-Rogers 9 pass from Ainge to UT 35; Brown 8 pass from Ainge to UT 48; On third-and-8, Jayson Swain 11 pass from Ainge to AF 39; Montario Hardesty 7 run to AF 32; Hardesty 9 run to AF 22 on third-and-2; On third-and-3, Swain 4 pass from Ainge to AF 11.

Drive-16 plays, 74 yards, 7:39.

TENNESSEE 17, AIR FORCE 10

UT-Swain 5-yard pass from Ainge (Wilhoit kick), :28.

Key plays-Hardesty 7 run; Rogers 7 pass from Ainge to UT 39; Hardesty 9 pass from Ainge to UT 48; Hardesty 10 run to AF 42; Meachem 14 pass from Ainge to AF 28; Meachem 20 pass over middle from Ainge to AF 8.

Drive-Eight plays, 75 yards, 2:08.

THIRD OUARTER

TENNESSEE 24, AIR FORCE 10

UT-Hardesty 3-yard run off left tackle (Wilhoit kick), 9:14. **Key plays-**UT had three third-down conversions en route to a record-tying 99-yard drive; Hardesty 3 run on third-and-1; Rogers 9 pass from Ainge on third-and-6; Swain 24 pass from Ainge on third-and-8 to AF 48; Lucas Taylor 45 bomb from Ainge down left side to AF 3.

Drive-11 plays, 99 yards, 5:39.

TENNESSEE 24, AIR FORCE 17

AF-Carney 1-yard dive (Sasser kick), 5:58.

Key plays-Hall 21 run around right side to AF 46; Williams 13 run to UT 30; Williams 28 run up middle to UT 2.

Drive-Seven plays, 75 yards, 2:53. **FOURTH QUARTER**

TENNESSEE 31. AIR FORCE 17

UT-Meachem 5 pass on fade to left side from Ainge (Wilhoit kick), 14:54.

Key plays-Meachem 19 slant from Ainge to UT 46; On fourth-and-1, Ainge 1-yard sneak to AF 44; Swain 13 pass from Ainge and 15-yard personal foul on AF to Falcons' 16; Hardesty 8 run to AF 8.

Drive-12 plays, 73 yards, 6:14.

TENNESSEE 31, AIR FORCE 24

AF-Williams 4 run off left tackle (Sasser kick), 2:

Key plays-Chad Smith 31 run on pitch left to UT 47; Travis Dekker 12 pass from Carney to UT 35; On third-and-8, Smith 9 run; On fourth-and-10, Justin Handley 11 pass from Carney to UT 13; Smith 7 run to UT 6.

Drive-12 plays, 78 yards, 3:54.

TENNESSEE 31, AIR FORCE 30

AF-Williams 1-yard dive (Hall run on two-point conversion stuffed by UT defensive end Xavier Mitchell.

Key plays-AF's Daniel Hill recovers onside kick at AF 42 after it hits off UT's Inky Johnson; Handley 24 pass from Carney to UT 31; Spencer Armstrong 24 pass from Carney down left sideline to UT 1.

Drive-Six plays, 58 yards, 1:01.



"We're excited to work with Gameday Centers and Trammell Crow Residential to bring this development to Knoxville."

- Mike Hamilton, UT Men's Athletic Director



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FRAME-BY-FRAME



JEFF ADKINS/NEWS SENTINEL

MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL **Andy Wentzel, right, sings the National Anthem** as an Air Force B-52 Stratofortress does a flyover Saturday at Neyland Stadium. The B-52, commanded by Air Force Academy graduate Lt. Col. Kent Schultz, is from the 917th Wing's 93rd Reserve Bomb Squadron in Barksdale AFB, La.



Wilhoit field goal.

JEFF ADKINS/NEWS SENTINEL Tennessee wide receiver Robert Meachem, left, is tackled by Air Force's Chris Sutton after a 44-yard pass reception that set up a James



Quarterback Erik Ainge, center, celebrates a narrow victory over Air Force on Saturday night at Neyland Stadium.



Tennessee linebackers Marvin Mitchell and Ryan Karl (39) get high with excitement while celebrating a defensive stop by the Vols against Air

JEFF ADKINS/NEWS SENTINEL

Wide receiver Austin Rogers, bottom, hauls in a pass in front of Air Force safety Bobby Giannini on Satur-

day.



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Vols say Air Force flexbone caused them fits

BY DREW EDWARDS

All night long, Tennessee's defense looked surprised against Air Force.

The Falcons and their hiddenball, flexbone offense confused the Vols to the tune of 30 points and 281 rushing yards, the most for a Vols' opponent since Kansas State's 291 in the 2001 Cotton Bowl.

When Air Force scored with 1 minute, 35 seconds remaining, junior linebacker Ryan Karl was sur-

Not that the Falcons were going for the two-point conversion. Surprised they didn't run right up the middle.

"I can't believe they actually ran a toss," said Karl, who finished with seven tackles, including two for a loss. "It hadn't been working all night. If they'd have just run the option, that's what had been working all day."

Xavier Mitchell hit wingback Chad Hall behind the line as Karl came up from the outside.

Tennessee picked a great time for one of its few great guesses on defense. When Hall took a toss outside

the right tackle, Mitchell hit him. The junior defensive end popped up and celebrated hard enough that his left shoe flew off his foot and sailed over the UT bench.

That play — and Jayson Swain's recovery of the ensuing onside kick — were enough for the Vols to survive with a 31-30 victory. Tennessee, now 2-0 heading

into next Saturday's matchup with Florida, couldn't be happier with the victory.

Or to see Air Force head back to Colorado.

"Next time we see it, we'll be a little bit better prepared," defensive coordinator John Chavis said. "Hopefully we don't see it for another six or seven years. Then after that I won't worry

Air Force's exotic flexbone offense was a worry heading into Saturday's game.

Once it arrived, several players said the Vols struggled to execute.

"Coach Chavis had an excellent game plan coming into the game, we just couldn't execute," sophomore linebacker Jerod Mavo said. "We don't see that type of offense on a regular basis. It's difficult. You have to tackle every-

For four quarters, the Vols had a hard time tackling anyone within 5 yards of the line of scrimmage.

Air Force quarterback Shaun

Carney rushed for 52 yards on 17 carries and threw for another 127 yards.

More importantly, the junior seemed to have the right read on most plays and was able to get the ball in the hands of fullback Ryan Williams or Hall.

Williams finished with 98 yards and a pair of scores and Hall wound up with 81 yards and a

The two players combined to average better than 6 yards a carry, an almost unheard-of number against UT's defense.

"We just didn't do some things very well," Chavis said. "We knew they would have some success moving the football, but quite honestly they moved it better than I thought they would."

Tennessee's defense is built around speed.

And the quickness and speed

that kept Cal flustered for more than three quarters last week might have worked against the Vols on Saturday.

"Our speed worked against us," said Mayo, who followed his three-sack performance against Cal with 10 tackles Saturday. "We were over-pursuing a lot of plays. We had to slow down and let them come to us."

Air Force's ability to disguise who had the ball was just as tough to defense.

"I don't know about you," UT coach Phillip Fulmer said, "but I was standing on the sidelines and I couldn't tell who had the ball."

In some ways, it was the perfect storm.

All of Air Force's cadets have run the offense as long as they've been at the academy.

Fisher DeBerry has coached it there for all of his 23 seasons.

Trying to play against it after a week of seeing the scout team run it was tough, Karl said.

"It's not going to be as fast, you're not going to be able to see a team that runs it every week and executes it like they do," he said. "They know that offense like the back of their hand. They execute that better than anyone I've ever seen."

Defensive tackle Matt Mc-Glothlin was happy to see a win. "I'm thrilled," he said. "A 'W' 's

Mayo was just happy to see the Falcons' option offense leave Neyland Stadium.

'You don't even know," he said. "I can't even speak. I don't want to see this offense any more."

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

VOLS

from VR1

tal offense and never punted.

Air Force (0-1) mystified Tennessee with a flexbone option attack that amassed 408 yards behind the shifty ball-handling and passing of quarterback Shaun

"We have to give this one to the offense," said UT linebacker Ryan Karl. "They carried us tonight.

"This is very humbling for us." Ainge humbled the Air Force defense. He fired TD passes of 4 yards and 5 yards to Robert Meachem and a 5-yarder to Jayson Swain.

Montario Hardesty got the other touchdown on a 3-yard run. He was the workhorse on the ground with 72 yards on 19 carries after Arian Foster suffered an ankle injury.

James Wilhoit accounted for UT's first score with a 35-yard

field goal. Thanks to Ainge's precision passing, the Vols scored on their first five possessions, going up 31-17 on the first play of the fourth

Just when it looked as if Tennessee was at last ready to land the knockout punch, Air Force turned momentum with two big

The Vols' sixth possession was gobbling up more yardage when Ainge was intercepted by Julian Madrid at the Air Force 11 with

6:31 to play. The Falcons raced downfield - converting fourth-and-10 along the way — and closed to 31-24 on fullback Ryan Williams' run

with 2:41 left. Next, Air Force recovered an onside kick that bounced off 28 — at South Carolina

UT's Inky Johnson. It was all Air Force now.

With 2:36 left, the Falcons launched another drive. Carney, who was deadly on his selective passing — 7-of-9 for 127 yards burned the Vols with two clutch completions.

The second was a 24-yarder to Spencer Armstrong at the UT

Williams rammed in the end zone and Tennessee's once-safe lead was all but gone at 31-30.

Rather than kick the extra point and try to win in overtime, Air Force used its final timeout to set up the two-point conversion try from the 3.

Mitchell, however, sliced in for the stop before Hall could turn the corner.

But it wasn't over yet.

ter Saturday night.



JEFF ADKINS/NEWS SENTINEL

first of the Falcons' two punts.

with 2:36 on the clock. Ainge ran

the hurry-up drill to perfection,

hitting Swain for the go-ahead

score with 28 seconds left in the

up 24-10 on a 99-yard drive to

Carney's 1-yard plunge capped a

75-yard march and cut the deficit

12-play drive that made it 31-17

when Ainge found Meachem in

ond Air Force punt and appeared

open the third quarter.

the end zone.

to be in control.

other ideas.

er DeBerry.

865-342-6276.

Hardesty's touchdown put UT

Air Force answered, though.

Tennessee's response was a

The Vols then forced the sec-

The Falcons, it turned out, had

"We did not come here to

"These are the guys that are

Mike Strange may be reached at

APPOINTMENT ONLY

lose," said Air Force coach Fish-

going to be representing you, rep-

resenting me and our freedom.

"They don't ever quit."

The Vols took over at their 25

Tennessee defensive end Xavier Mitchell, left, celebrates with teammates after making a game-saving tackle on a two-point conversion. The play preserved the Vols' 31-30 victory.

2006 SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 — California, W 35-18 Sept. 9 — Air Force, **W, 31-30**

Saturday — Florida, 8 (WVLT) 23 — Marshall (HC), 4 (PPV)

30 — at Memphis

7 — at Georgia

21 — Alabama

November

4 — LSU

11 — at Arkansas

18 — at Vanderbilt

25 — Kentucky

The Falcons recovered another onside kick, only to be penalized for being offsides.

On the re-kick, Swain fell on the football and the Vols were finally out of harm's way.

"They came in here to win the game and didn't want to go to overtime," said UT head coach Phillip Fulmer.

"I'm glad they went for it and glad they didn't get it.

"But we could have put the game away if we don't throw the

interception."

That was Ainge's only misstep on a 24-of-29 passing night.

He was near-perfect in bringing the Vols from behind to claim

a 17-10 halftime lead. Air Force took the opening kickoff and smacked the Vols in the mouth with a 10-play drive that ended on Hall's 5-yard touch-

down run. Tennessee staged a promising drive of its own. However, a dropped third-down pass necessitated that Wilhoit clean up with a 35-yard field goal.

Air Force went back on the at-

tack with a 7-3 lead. Once again, Carney and the Falcons befuddled UT's defense by grinding out a 14-play drive that consumed 8:23

"They clinicked us on the

wishbone," said Fulmer. This drive fell short of the end zone when UT's Marvin Mitchell hurried Carney into an incompletion on third down at the 9.

Zach Sasser's 22-yard field goal made it 10-3.

The Vols drew even by taking a chapter out of the Air Force playbook — a 16-play, 74-yard drive that lasted 7:39. Ainge's 4-yard TD flip to

Meachem knotted the score at 10-10 with 5:47 left in the half.

Finally, Tennessee forced the

from VR1

ADAMS

Never mind that the Falcons didn't have nearly enough speed on defense to slow UT's passing attack.

They found a way to make it a one-play game. They just didn't make the play.

DeBerry called the play long before it was necessary. He called it after Air Force recovered an onside kick at its own 42 with 2:36 to play.

Fifty-eight yards in 2:36. That was no big deal for an offense that had just gone 78 yards in 12 plays on its last possession.

"I knew we were going to score," DeBerry said.

He said as much to his team before the drive. He told his players something else, too. He told them after they scored, they would go for two.

"I got a smile out of each and every one of them," DeBerry said.

The Falcons took it from there, covering the 58 yards in only six plays. They just couldn't make the three extra yards on the conversion or

pull off another onside kick. So they return to the Mountain West Conference, a few yards short of a stunning upset; the Vols step shakily but gratefully into Florida week with the CBS showdown still intact.

"Expect the unexpected" comes to mind.

Who would have thought UT would jump out to a 35-0 lead against ninth-ranked Cal in the season opener? And who would have thought UT would come within a play of losing to an Air Force team picked to finish eighth in the Mountain West?

You probably spent half of August wondering how UT would hold up against Cal's multi-talented offense. You probably didn't devote half a second to Air Force's offense until you watched it go 72 yards for a touchdown on its first possession.

Cal's offense was supposed to be dynamic. Air Force's offense was supposed to be a curiosity piece.

UT dominated Cal's offense. It never had a clue against Air Force's option-oriented

flexbone offense, which Shaun Carney operated almost flawlessly. Carney is a 5-foot-10, 190-

pound junior. He's also the tallest man in the Falcons backfield.

But all the Falcons looked taller when they got the football. They rushed for 281 yards against a UT defense that sometimes goes three games without giving up that

After UT rallied to take a 17-10 halftime lead, you probably thought defensive coordinator Iohn Chavis would make a few defensive adjustments, and the Vols would break the flexbone with ease in the second half.

Not exactly. Instead, the Falcons needed only seven plays to go 75 yards for a touchdown on their first possession of the second half. The most dramatic play of

the game was Air Force's twopoint conversion. But the play most indicative of the game occurred with 6:14 to play in the third quarter.

One official signaled a touchdown for Air Force as Carney dove into the UT end zone. Another official signaled a touchdown for UT safety Jonathan Hefney as he ran across the goal line at the opposite end of the field.

Confused? Then you know how the defenses felt Saturday night.

Carney fumbled after the score, and Hefney picked up the loose ball and ran the length of the field for what he thought was a UT touchdown. Another official raised his arms, unaware the play was over before Hefney picked up

Two touchdown calls on one play: How appropriate in a game in which the offenses took turns executing long drives against overmatched defenses.

After watching those matchups repeatedly go the offenses' way, it's no wonder DeBerry eschewed an extra-point kick to send the game into overtime. In a game like this, what was 3 more yards?

He made the right call. But Mitchell made the right play.

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



CATHY CLARKE/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee linebacker Marvin Mitchell chases down Air Force quarterback Shaun Carney in the second quar-



Well-protected Ainge pitches an almost perfect game

VOL REPORT

BY DAVE HOOKER

Erik Ainge compared himself to a baseball pitcher Saturday night. That seemed about right.

There was almost a perfect game. Then, there was the save.

UT's junior quarterback was nearly perfect for much of the game until he threw an interception late in the fourth quarter. The pick gave Air Force reason to rally late but UT held on, 31-30.

Ainge completed 24-of-29 passes for 333 yards and three touchdowns. Still, the stat line didn't do Ainge's performance justice. UT's receivers dropped two passes and Ainge purposefully threw at least one pass away to avoid what little pressure Air Force present-

"You get more confident and you get in that zone as the game goes on," Ainge said. "As an offense, we were there."

Head coach Phillip Fulmer said Ainge managed the game extremely well.

"He was outstanding," Fulmer said. Erik was really on, throwing the football well. He was very sharp.'

After two games, Ainge has seven touchdown passes. He had only five all of last season.

Ainge was at his best against Air Force in the second and third quarters, when he completed 15 consecutive passes. "Obviously you don't know when

something like that's going on," Ainge

said. "It's like throwing a no-hitter in "I can't stress it enough. If you can give me 3½ seconds and our receivers

that much time to run those good routes, we should complete 15 balls in a row. That's what we expect to do."

Once again, the pass protection was great. After not giving up a sack against California in the season opener, UT

matched that feat against Air Force, which rarely touched Ainge.

"When you have that much time to throw," Ainge said, "if we weren't clicking, we'd be real upset."

Just as Ainge was ready to complete the game, he faltered by throwing an interception as UT was deep in Air Force territory late in the game.

"I just stared at where I was going to go too long," Ainge said. "The flat defender was reading my eyes. I actually had a touchdown to Robert Meachem down the sideline. I missed him."

Said Fulmer, "I give him (Ainge) a lot of credit but we could have put the game away if we don't throw the interception." Jayson Swain was one of many re-

ceivers who benefited from Ainge's efficiency. He caught six passes for 74 yards and a touchdown.

"We had no choice to catch it be-

cause it was hitting us right in the chest," the senior said. "...Erik's doing a great job. Hopefully next week he can minimize those mistakes he made tonight."

Other than one drop, sophomore Austin Rogers had a strong night filing in for senior receiver Bret Smith, who has been sidelined with a concussion he suffered last week. Rogers caught five passes for 69 yards.

"I think it was good for me to show the coaches that I could go out there and play," Rogers said.

Meachem was UT's leading receiver again. He caught eight passes for 115

Ainge had to showcase his patience almost as much as his arm. Air Force did its best to keep UT's receivers from getting open deep.

"Of course," Swain said. "Physically we were better across the board. What team wouldn't do that? We felt like we could make any play in the passing game. Them, being smart, they were getting those guys back."

That didn't seem to bother Ainge. Yet, as good as he was, he was ready for more. Had Air Force converted on a late two-point conversion, Ainge was confident UT could retake the lead.

"We were hoping we were going to get the ball back," he said. "We had it schemed up. We were going to score to end that game."

The post-game interview area didn't have the typical feel associated with a UT victory. It was obvious the Vols felt fortunate to secure the win and knew there were bigger challenges ahead.

"We'll face a lot better defenses than what we faced tonight," Fulmer said. That starts next week when UT hosts

Dave Hooker may be reached at 865-



MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee running back Arian Foster, left, can't run around Air Force cornerback Chris Sutton, who zeroes in for the tackle during the first half of Saturday's game at Neyland Stadium. Foster left the game in the second quarter with a sprained left ankle.

Johnson most serious of UT injuries

BY DREW EDWARDS

Tennessee cornerback Inquoris Johnson was taken to UT hospital for observation after a nasty collision during the fourth quarter of the Vols' 31-30 victory over Air Force on Saturday.

Johnson, a 5-foot-9, 190-pound junior who starts at right cornerback, lay near the Falcons' sideline for several minutes before being carted off the field.

UT coach Phillip Fulmer said Johnson was briefly knocked unconscious after a helmet-to-helmet hit with Falcons halfback Justin Handley on a pass play.

On his way to an ambulance in the northeast corner of Neyland Stadium, Johnson pumped his fist to the crowd of 105,466, and Fulmer said Johnson was moving his extremities on the field.

"We're hopeful he'll be fine," UT coach Phillip Fulmer said.

Safety Jonathan Hefney, who led the Vols with a career-high 17 tackles, said it was difficult to see Johnson laying on the field.

"I felt bad for him, knowing that he's a tough guy," said Hefney, who roomed with Johnson during fall camp. "I felt bad and I just count my blessings because I know he'll bounce back.'

While Johnson's injury appeared to be the most serious, several other Vols were banged

Preseason All-SEC defensive tackle Justin Harrell left in the third quarter after injuring his left bicep muscle.

Starting tailback Arian Foster did not return after about the midway point in the second quarter after spraining his left ankle.

Fulmer said Foster's ankle was taped at halftime, but the sophomore couldn't return.

Backup offensive lineman Ramon Foster also sprained his left ankle.

Receiver Bret Smith, who was nursing a concussion from last week's win over California, did not play Saturday.

Special Teams: UT had several special teams miscues against Air Force.

Johnson fumbled an onside kick late in the fourth quarter. Air Force recovered and drove for a touchdown. Air Force recovered another onside kick but the Falcons were flagged for an offsides penalty.

"The first one, we went for the ball and it bounded off of our chest," Fulmer said. 'The second one, we acted like we didn't want to field the darn thing."

UT had two other kickoff-return miscues but neither was costly. Sophomore Demetrice Morley accidentally downed the ball on a kick return at the 1-yard line. The Vols still drove 99 yards for the score.

Sophomore Lucas Taylor muffed a kickoff return but the ball bounced out of bounds before several Air Force players could recover the ball.

Salute: The families of the first four UT football players to ever have their jerseys retired received a standing ovation during a pre-game ceremony. Former UT players Bill Nowling, Rudy Klarer, Willis Tucker and Clyde "Ig" Fuson were killed in World War II. UT retired their jerseys in 1946.

UT unveiled a sign inside the stadium and a banner in the north concourse prior to kickoff to recognize the four.

Dave Hooker contributed to this report.

Carney's vision falls just a few yards short coming up short on the two-point

With one minute, 35 seconds left, Shaun Carney was already thinking about the year 2016.

Air Force's junior quarterback was picturing a group of cadets sitting in a room watching film of Sept. 9, 2006.

He had visions of a history making victory against 11th-ranked Tennessee on Saturday night.

Instead, the Falcons came up 3 yards short of glory as Xavier Mitchell stopped Chad Hall on a two-point conversion run to preserve a 31-30 Vols' victory.

"We were watching clips today before the game of old (Air Force) teams beating people," Carney said. "We were thinking 10 years from now that people would be watching us and remembering us beating Tennessee.

"We just came up a couple of yards short."

Short on the scoreboard, but not short on effort.

The Falcons (0-1) followed the lead of Carney and rallied for 13 fourth-quarter points to nearly pull off the shocker in front of 105,466 fans in Neyland Stadium.

Carney was the picture of Air Force cool, running the flexbone option to perfection most of the

night.

He had 17 rushes for 52 yards and a touchdown. He completed 7-of-9 passes for 127 yards, several of those coming late as Air Force made UT squirm.

Carney hit Justin Handley with an 11-yard pass on fourth-and-10 to keep one touchdown drive

After Air Force recovered an onside kick with 2:36 remaining, Carney went to work again. He hit Handley with a 24-yard pass and then Spencer Armstrong with a 24-yard strike down the left sideline to the UT 1.

Carney looked into the eyes of UT players and saw disbelief.

"They kind of had a shocked look on their face, like what just happened to us," Carney said of his postgame handshakes with Vols. "We were expecting to see that look on their face, so it wasn't that big of a surprise to us.

"We're for real. That's a great football team and we lost by one." Still, the disappointment of

play was evident. "Going up to the line, it was,

We're about to do what we came here to do. We're going to win this game and leave our mark in history," Carney said. "When it happened, it was kind

of like everything fell from the Air Force coach Fisher DeBer-

ry had nothing but praise for Carney and his team. "I thought my quarterback played extremely well," he said.

"He got us in the right place most of the time and read things correctly most of the time. "I certainly thought he made a

lot of plays on his own. He did a lot of adlibbing and made a lot of plays on second effort and scrambling."

The effort was there, but history will have to wait.

DeBerry disappointment: DeBerry has been around a long time, 23 years as Air Force head coach

He had no trouble placing this game among his most heartbreaking losses.

"It's probably the most disappointing game I've ever been involved in," he said. "It's a game I felt we should have won, and a game I felt we could have won.

"We played against a marquee school with great football tradition in the upper echelon of the nation and the SEC.

Two-Point Reactions: Air Force players to a man feel they had the right play called on the two-point conversion attempt, a pitch to Chad Hall around the right side.

"We had a great play called and it had worked all day," Hall said. "We usually got at least 3 yards, and usually got 8 or 10 every time we ran it. Tennessee just made a great play.

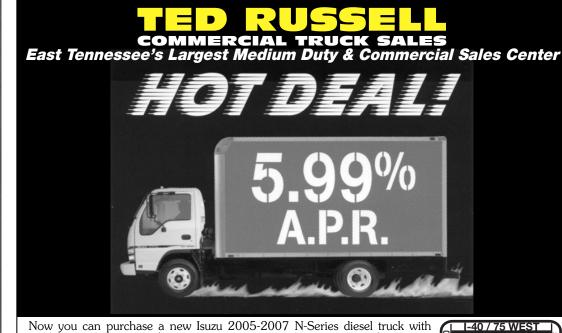
"They slanted to the only place we don't have covered.'

Carney agreed. Going for a tie never entered the quarterback's thought process.

"Heck no," he said. "(DeBerry) had a bunch of confidence in us and we had a bunch of confidence in each other.

"Nobody doubted going for two or even had a look of concern. We were sure we were going to make





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Florida dominant in tune-up for Tennessee

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - Florida coach Urban Meyer should have fewer complaints after his team's performance against Central Florida.

Chris Leak threw for a career-high 352 yards and four scores, freshman Percy Harvin provided more dazzling moments and the seventh-ranked Gators routed UCF 42-0 Saturday night.

Although the victory came against the Golden Knights, whose defense allowed 322 yards against Division I-AA Villanova a week earlier, Meyer should feel much better about his Gators (2-0) as they prepare for an SEC showdown at No. 11 Tennessee.

Following a 34-7 victory against Southern Mississippi last week, Meyer lamented college football's new clock rules, which negated a few possessions, about a dozen plays and maybe some points in the opener. He also ripped Florida's running game, lack of defensive pressure and some special teams aspects.

All those worries were washed away

The Gators, who led Southern Miss 14-7 late in the third quarter, scored touchdowns on five of their first seven possessions and led 34-0 at halftime. The defense, which gave up nearly 300 yards in the opener, constantly harassed quarterback Steven Moffett and forced the Golden Knights (1-1) into countless punts.

Leak, meanwhile, had all the time he needed to find open receivers.

He completed a short pass to Harvin

across the middle on Florida's fifth play of the game. The receiver turned up the sideline, got a few key blocks and outran everyone else for a 58-yard score. Harvin finished with four receptions for 99 yards.

Leak also threw a 10-yard TD pass to Dallas Baker and a 25-yarder to Andre Caldwell with 4 seconds to play in the first half. Leak was 13-of-19 for 265 yards in the half.

Leak put the Gators up 42-0 in the third with an 8-yard TD pass to Caldwell. He finished 19-of-29. His previous career high was 322 yards against Arkansas in 2004.

Highly touted freshman Tim Tebow proved again to be one of Florida's best runners. He played a series in the second quarter, running three times for 38 yards, and drove the offense into scoring range. Kestahn Moore's 28-yard scamper made it 20-0.

Tebow returned and played the entire fourth quarter, but had two turnovers a fumble and an interception.

Defense in charge for LSU

Tigers shut down Arizona 45-3

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Jonathan Zenon returned an interception for a touchdown for the second consecutive week, highlighting a smothering defensive performance by No. 8 LSU in a 45-3 victory over Arizona on Saturday night.

Arizona had only 54 total yards through the first three quarters. The rest of the Wildcats' yardage came after replacements had begun to take over and a boisterous crowd of 92,218 was half gone.

Although the Tigers (2-0) put up 45 points for a secondconsecutive week, they could have scored more. They settled for a field goal on their opening drive after having a first-and-goal on the 3-yard line. Three other drives ended with turnovers in Arizona territory on two fumbles and an interception.

LSU may not get away with squandering scoring chances next week in a SEC showdown at No. 4 Auburn (2-0), which beat Mississippi State 34-0 on Saturday.

Against Arizona (1-1), it wasn't a factor.

LSU fullback Jacob Hester scored two TDs, his first on a 5-yard pass from JaMarcus Russell to cap a short drive set up by B.I. Dennard's fumbled kickoff return. Hester ran for a 28yard score in the third quarter.

Alley Broussard continued his encouraging return from a knee injury, with a 17-yard touchdown run.

Freshman rescues Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — When all else failed, Alabama turned to the freshman kicker.

Walk-on Leigh Tiffin's 47-yard field goal midway through the fourth quarter helped the Crimson Tide overcome drive-killing mistakes and beat Vanderbilt 13-10 on Saturday.

"I knew it was a big kick but it didn't really overwhelm me," said Tiffin, subbing for an in-

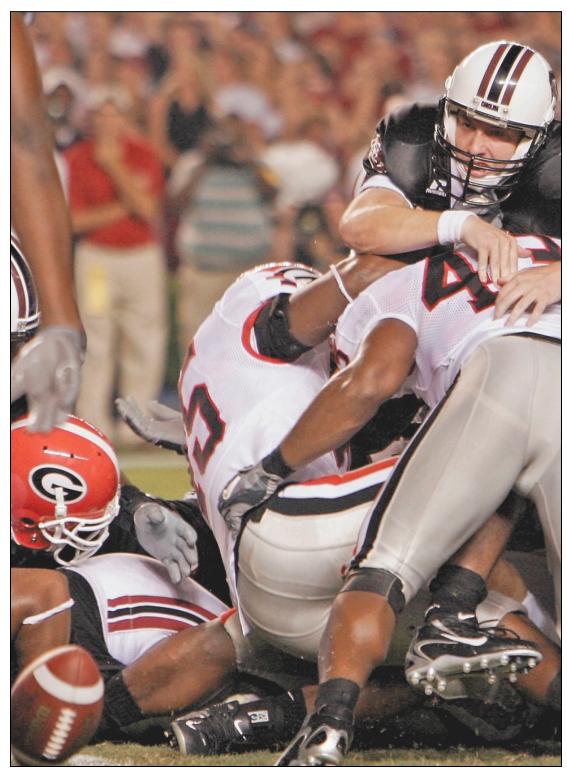
jured Jamie Christensen. How big? Along with a defense that forced four turnovers, it helped Alabama (2-0, 1-0 SEC) extend its winning streak over the Commodores, who led 10-3 at halftime, to 18 games and overcome an offense that couldn't finish off drives.

Tide fans who aren't used to sweating out such close games against Vandy (0-2, 0-1) reacted more with relief than excitement when Juwan Simpson made an interception as time expired.

Vandy's defense made Tiffin's job harder, sacking John Parker Wilson for a 13-yard loss on third-and-8.

Alabama coach Mike Shula, who had earlier called for a fake field goal rather than have Tiffin try a 41-yarder, turned to him to win the game. The son of famed former Tide kicker Van Tiffin sent a line drive through

the uprights with 7:34 left. Alabama had salvaged the opportunity when Wilson sidestepped a defender and hit Nikita Stover for a 36-yard pass on third-and-18.



PERRY BAKER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Carolina quarterback Blake Mitchell, top, watches the ball hit the ground after he fumbles against

Inspired by Erk, Georgia shuts down South Carolina, 18-0

Associated Press

COLUMBIA. S.C. — The "Tunkyard Dawgs" struck again Saturday night.

One day after the program's longtime defensive coordinator Erk Russell died, No. 12 Georgia posted its first shutout in three vears — and only the second ever hung on South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier — in an 18-0 victory Saturday night.

Russell led the defense for Georgia coach Vince Dooley from 1964-80 before leaving to restart football at Georgia Southern. Against the Gamecocks, the Bulldogs (2-0, 1-0 SEC) played with the fire and fortitude that earned Russell's teams their famous nickname, along with four SEC titles.

Georgia's players wore a black "ERK" decal on their helmets, then bottled up the Gamecocks (1-1, 1-0) for most of the game.

South Carolina had 10 yards rushing in the first half and 32 through three quarters. The closest the Gamecocks came to scoring was on 4th-and-goal from Georgia's 1. But Blake Mitchell's quarterback sneak wound up with the ball punched into the end zone and going over to Georgia by rule.

The Gamecocks drove to Georgia's 2 midway through the fourth quarter. Again, Georgia held them without points.

This was Georgia's first shutout since a 30-0 win at Clemson to start the 2003 season. The only other time a Spurrier team was held without points came during his first year as a college coach in 1987, when Duke lost 7-0 to Rut-

gers — a span of 193 games.

The Bulldogs got three field

goals from Brandon Coutu, a 9- **EAST** yard TD run from Danny Ware, and a safety from big defensive

end Charles Johnson. Georgia's defense took center stage to bail out a sluggish offense, hurt when starting quarterback Joe Tereshinski injured his right ankle on the team's first series and freshman Matthew Stafford had to fill in.

Stafford showed his talent he escaped a sure sack deep in own territory by rushing the width of the field then pushing forward for an 11-yard gain — and rawness with three interceptions. However, the way Georgia's defenders played, it didn't make much difference.

Stafford did enough to give the Bulldogs a comfortable lead. He had pass completions of 10 yards to Mario Raley and 19 yards to Kenneth Harris.

Ware did the rest, carrying four times for the final 38 yards, including a 9-yard TD run that put Georgia ahead 10-0.

Stafford hit passes of 20 yards to Thomas Brown and 39 yards to Massaquoi on his next series and looked like he'd lead the Bulldogs to another touchdown.

But his pass near the goal line was intercepted, deflected by Gamecock cornerback Captain Munnerlyn to teammate Chris Hampton.

Johnson stopped South Carolina tailback Mike Davis in the end zone for the Bulldogs' first safety in two seasons. Then Stafford got them going once again, driving to Brandon Coutu's

second field goal of the half. Coutu connected from 46 yards as time ran out, sending Georgia to the locker room up 15-0.

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

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

Saturday's results **Tennessee 31, Air Force 30**

Alabama 13, Vanderbilt 10 Missouri 34, Ole Miss 7 Auburn 34, Mississippi St. 0 Florida 42, UCF 0 Kentucky 41, Texas State 7 LSU 45, Arizona 3 Arkansas 20, Utah State 0 Georgia 18, S. Carolina O

Sept. 16 Florida at Tennessee, 8 p.m. (WVLT)

Arkansas at Vanderbilt, 12:30 (WVLT) UAB at Georgia, 1 LSU at Auburn, 3:30 (WVLT) Texas State at Kentucky, 6 La.-Monroe at Alabama, 7 Tulane at Mississippi St., 7 Wofford at South Carolina, 7

Irons' deficiency doesn't slow Auburn

Associated Press

STARKVILLE, Miss. - Mississippi State stymied Auburn star Kenny Irons. The rest of the Tigers had their way with the Bulldogs.

Brad Lester ran for two touchdowns, Brandon Cox threw two touchdown passes and No. 4 Auburn took advantage of Mississippi State's miscues in a 34-0 victory Saturday.

The Tigers (2-0, 1-0 SEC) won for the 18th time in the last 19 SEC games, despite getting only 69 yards rushing in 21 carries from Irons. The SEC's leading returning rusher had a streak of seven consecutive 100-yard games snapped.
"We kept a close eye on him

all day and I feel like we held him like we should," Mississippi State coach Sylvester Croom said.

"(But) Auburn constantly receives good field position throughout the game, which kills our defense. Poor field position puts our defense in a real bad spot."

The Tigers are an SEC-best 37-12 since 2000 and face No. 8 LSU next weekend in an earlyseason Western Division show-

With the Bulldogs (0-2, 0-2) focusing on Irons, the fullback Lester took advantage with 40 yards on five carries. And Mississippi State's mistakes left the Bulldogs' defense vulnerable to Auburn's other weapons.

"The first SEC road game is always difficult," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said. "I was glad to see our offense kept getting stronger as the game went

Poor special teams play set up the first scores of each half for the Tigers and turnovers also led to points.

Lester's first touchdown, a 2yard run to the left corner, put Auburn up 14-0 with 11:35 remaining in the first half. The play was set up by Karibi Dede's fumble recovery after Auburn's Sen'Derrick Marks sacked and stripped the ball away from Mississippi State quarterback Tray Rutland at the Bulldogs' 1.

Rutland, making his first career start, was intercepted late in the quarter by David Irons, Kenny's brother, and it led to John Vaughn's career-best 55yard field goal.

The fourth-longest field goal in school history gave Auburn a 17-0 at halftime.

A Mississippi State facemask penalty on the opening kickoff of the second half helped Auburn pile on the points as the Tigers took over from the Bulldogs 48.

Irons ripped off one of his few long runs, a 17-yarder. Three plays later, Lester broke three tackles against the tiring Bulldogs defense on his way to a 20-yard touchdown run that put Auburn up 24-0.

Daniel, Missouri stomp Ole Miss

Associated Press

At times, Chase Daniel looked a bit like the record-setting quarterback he replaced at Missouri.

Daniel had 332 yards in total offense and the Tigers got a dominant effort from their defense in a 34-7 victory over Mississippi on Saturday in Columbia, Mo.

"He's not going to be Brad Smith," coach Gary Pinkel said. "He is not going to turn 30- and 40-yard gains, but he's quick enough and he's athletic enough where he can put some pressure on the defense. That adds a lot to our offense.

Daniel ran for a 3-yard score and had a 20-yard touchdown pass in a strong follow-up to his first career start last week, when he threw a school-record five touchdown passes against Division I-AA Murray State.

Saturday's effort came against tougher competition, with Daniel going 24-for-40 for 243 yards and rushing for 89 yards on 13 carries.

Ole Miss (1-1) managed only 162 total yards, and quarterback Brent Schaeffer threw three interceptions. The Rebels were outgained 169-7 in the first quarter and surrendered 471 yards overall.

"It seemed like they were just everywhere," Schaeffer said. "Things just went wrong."

Missouri has allowed 14 points in its first two games.

"I don't know if they quit," safety David Overstreet said. "But they were asking the ref why we keep hitting them."

BenJarvus Green-Ellis had 69 yards on 16 carries for Ole Miss. The Rebels totaled 72 yards rushing after getting 240 in their opening victory over Memphis.

Arkansas 20, Utah State 0: Darren McFadden ran 184 yards, making Mitch Mustain a winner in his first college start for the Razorbacks.

McFadden, last season's SEC

freshman of the year, looked fully recovered from a toe injury suffered in a fight outside a Little Rock nightclub July 29. He started against Southern California last week, carrying nine times for 42 yards, but said then he was only 85 percent re-

covered. larger-than-expected crowd of 69,491 turned out to see local hero Mustain, named the nation's top prep player by Parade magazine, after throwing for 3,817 yards and 47 touchdowns for Springdale (Ark.)

High School last year. McFadden carried on seven of the Razorbacks' first nine plays as Arkansas (1-1) sought to dominate on the ground and

take pressure off Mustain. Mustain, 9-of-17 passing for 119 yards with no interceptions, hit Marcus Monk with a 13-yard scoring pass just before half-

Kentucky 41, Texas St. 7: Andre Woodson threw three touchdown passes and the Wildcats rebounded from a blowout at Louisville with its most lopsided victory in four years, defeating a Division I-AA foe.

The last time the Wildcats outscored an opponent by more was Sept. 7, 2002, when they beat Texas-El Paso 77-17.

The Bobcats (1-1) had the ball in Kentucky territory only twice in the first three quarters once when they inherited it on the 6-yard line after Rafael Little fumbled to end Kentucky's opening drive.

Woodson threw an interception to end the Wildcats' second drive. After that, Kentucky (1-1) could do little wrong. The Wildcats, coming off a 59-28 loss to Louisville, scored the next four times they had the ball — three of them courtesy of Woodson touchdown pass-

Two of the scoring receptions were by Dicky Lyons Jr., son of the former Kentucky standout by the same name.

Smith directs Ohio State dismantling of Texas

AUSTIN, Texas — Troy Smith and the Ohio State Buckeyes showed the defending champions who's

Now comes the burden of holding on to the top spot.

In the first regular season matchup of No. 1 vs. No 2 in a decade, Smith riddled the Longhorns for 269 yards passing and two touchdowns, leading the Buckeyes to a 24-7 win Saturday

The victory keeps the Buckeyes (2-0) in perfect position for a run to a national title. Keep winning and they stay right where they are.

The Buckeyes defense, which had to replace nine starters this season, looked championship caliber, holding a Texas team that had scored at least 40 points in 12 consecutive games to a single touchdown.

As for No. 2 Texas (1-1), which saw its 21-game winning streak snapped, the Longhorns will need some help if they hope to defend their 2005 championship at the end of the season.

Colt McCoy was no Vince

Young in the rematch of last season's 25-22 Texas win in Columbus. The Longhorns' new starting QB threw for 154 yards with an interception and a touch-

'It's not a revenge thing, any and every win we get during the course of the season is a good win," said Smith, who split time at quarterback in last year's game, his first after a suspension.

The last time 1-2 met in the regular season, No. 2 Florida State beat No. 1 Florida, but the Gators won the rematch in the Sugar Bowl to win the national cham-

Smith was everything Texas feared this time: a leader and a playmaker.

He threw first half touchdown passes of 14 yards to Anthony Gonzalez and a 29-yard to best friend and high school teammate Ted Ginn Ir. The second was a perfect strike just before halftime that sucked the life out of the home crowd.

Gonzalez had eight catches for 142 yards, both career highs, against a defense concentrating on stopping Ginn, who finished with five catches for 97 yards.

The Longhorns used their win in Columbus last season as the springboard to their first undisputed national title since 1969. But that win and that season came with Young at quarterback.

McCoy, the redshirt freshman from West Texas, showed he can take a tough hit, but he couldn't pull off the type of comeback that Young had made legendary in his Texas career.

Saturday night's game was an unusual early-season blockbuster with two of college football's heavyweights both on the field and in tradition.

Ohio State was the first No. 1 to come to Austin since SMU in

A Buckeyes booster put up \$225,000 to bring the Ohio State band, and fans groups estimated that as many as 40,000 Buckeyes faithful made the 1,200-mile trip from Columbus, with or without tickets for the game.

The Royal-Memorial Stadium record crowd of 89,442 was on its feet 30 minutes before kickoff while a couple hundred more watched Wrigley Field-style from the roof of the parking lot next

Michigan gets to Hart of matter

Running back leads Wolverines to 41-17 win

Associated Press

Michigan has won its first two games by an average of 22 points.

The 10th-ranked Wolverines beat Central Michigan 41-17 Saturday after handling Vanderbilt in their opener, but still don't know if they are merely good or potentially great. Michigan is about to find out because

its next game is at No. 4 Notre Dame. "It's huge," said Mike Hart, who ran for

116 yards and matched a career high with three TDs. "It's not your season per se, but it shows you how good your team is.' Even though the score was lopsided, the

Wolverines (2-0) did not look impressive during much of the tune-up before playing the Fighting Irish.

Michigan had a fourth down on each of its first three drives and rarely was sharp in its passing game against the Chippewas (0-2). The Wolverines gave up some big plays on defense and a couple of long kickoff returns. Both sides of the ball combined to commit nine penalties for 73 yards.

Dan LeFevour threw for 153 yards with two TDs and two turnovers for the Chippe-

The game was delayed an hour late in the first quarter because of lightning. It was the first weather interruption at Michigan Stadium — where the Wolverines have played since 1927 — according to the school.

"It was like a halftime," said Michigan defensive end LaMarr Woodley, who had two sacks, forced a fumble and recovered one. "We made some corrections, and just sat

The game drew 108,712 fans and many returned to their seats after the delay.

After the rare delay, Hart's second TD an 18-yard run — gave Michigan a 14-0 lead. The Wolverines led 24-10 at halftime and 41-10 early in the fourth quarter.

West Virginia 52, Eastern Washington 3: Steve Slaton rushed for 105 yards and two touchdowns in just two series of work to lead the No. 6 Mountaineers in Morgantown, W.Va.

Three backup quarterbacks combined for three rushing touchdowns and one passing for the Mountaineers (2-0), who used reserves for most of the game against the Division I-AA Eagles.

By the time West Virginia built a 21-3 lead early in the second quarter, Slaton and starting quarterback Pat White were done for the day with a short turnaround to Thursday night's home game against Maryland.

Virginia Tech 35, North Carolina 10: Two of Branden Ore's three touchdowns were set up by the 16th-ranked Hokies' dominating defense and special teams in Chapel Hill,

Ore finished with 111 yards and scoring runs of 1, 4 and 3 yards, and the Hokies (2-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) went back to their roots in improving to 9-0 in ACC road

games since they joined the league in 2004. Xavier Adibi returned an interception 40 yards to set up Ore's first touchdown, Josh



Michigan tight end Carson Butler lands on his head after being flipped by Central Michigan defensive back Terrance Robinson in Saturday's game in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Morgan blocked a punt inside the North Carolina 10 to set up another and Brenden Hill

scored on a 69-yard interception return. North Carolina outgained Virginia Tech 268-224, but it was the Hokies' punishing defense and special teams that made the dif-

Miami 51, Florida A&M 10: The No. 17 Hurricanes found their running game, albeit against

an overmatched Division I-AA opponent. Charlie Jones rushed for two touchdowns, Javarris James ran for one and caught another, and Tyrone Moss added a 20-yard scoring run in his first game back from a

knee injury.

Miami (1-1), which managed only two rushing yards in a season-opening loss to Florida State, dominated the line of scrimmage against the smaller Rattlers, gaining 339 yards on 47 carries. Derron Thomas had 109 yards on 11 carries, while James had 75 yards, Moss 64 yards and Jones 62 more for the Hurri-

Kyle Wright completed 13 of 18 passes for 166 yards and a touchdown.

It was the first Orange Bowl visit for Florida A&M coach Rubin Carter since his All-American playing days at Miami as a defensive tackle in the 1970s.

Irish's Quinn cranks up Heisman hype with TDs

Associated Press

Brady Quinn threw three touchdowns and the Notre Dame offense returned to fantastic form in a 41-17 victory over No. 19 Penn State on Saturday in South Bend, Ind.

The defense and special teams chipped in, too, for the fourth-ranked Fighting Irish (2-0), who ended Penn State's sixgame winning streak.

Coach Joe Paterno's Nittany Lions (1-1) haven't beaten a ranked team on the road since a 34-31 win at No. 19 Wisconsin on Oct. 5, 2002.

Quinn and the Irish looked much sharper than they did a week earlier, when they played so inconsistently against Georgia Tech that even coach Charlie Weis dropped the Irish a few spots on his ballot in the coaches' poll.

Quinn, the Heisman-hyped quarterback, threw touchdown passes to Jeff Samardzija, Rhema McKnight and Darius Walk-

Safety Tom Zbikowski returned a fumble for a 25-yard touchdown for Notre Dame and Travis Thomas — the starting linebacker — set up his own 1yard TD run with a 43-yard run on a fake punt.

After being held without a touchdown pass against Georgia Tech, Quinn threw for three touchdowns and 229 yards in the first half against the Nittany Lions, leading the Irish to a 20-0 halftime lead.

California 42, Minnesota 17: De-Sean Jackson caught three of Nate Longshore's four touchdown passes in the first half for the No. 22 Golden Bears (1-1).

Marshawn Lynch rushed for 139 yards and two touchdowns, and Jackson caught seven passes for 114 yards as Cal showed off all the offensive talent that attracted its highest preseason ranking in 54 years before its 35-18 defeat at Tennessee last week.

"They didn't have a hangover from last week," Cal coach Jeff Tedford said. "They knew that last week wasn't us. Maybe now we can stop talking about it."

Louisville 62, Temple 0: No Michael Bush, no worries in the running game for the No. 13 Car-

Well, for one game at least. Next week against Miami, the competition gets a whole lot tougher.

George Stripling and Sergio Spencer each ran for two touchdowns, ably filling in for the injured Bush against overmatched Temple.

A ridiculously lopsided game thanks to his touchdowns and scores on 10 consecutive possessions.

Kurt Quarterman and Kolby Smith added touchdown runs for the Cardinals (2-0) and Brian Brohm threw for 307 yards and a score in their biggest win since beating Cincinnati 70-7 in

Florida State 24, Troy 17: Buster Davis' interception set up a 4yard touchdown run by Joe Surratt with 1:56 left, helping the No. 9 Seminoles pull out the vic-

The Seminoles (2-0) scored two touchdowns in the final 6:12 to avoid what might have been the most embarrassing home loss in coach Bobby Bowden's 31 years coaching at the school. Davis, the 5-foot-10 linebacker,

intercepted Omar Haugabook's third-down pass at the Troy 29 moments after Florida State had tied the game at 17-17.

Haugabook completed 28 of 46 passes for 219 yards, but was intercepted three times. Drew Weatherford threw a 5-

yard tying TD pass to Chris Davis, whose muffed punt minutes earlier led to Troy grabbing the lead.

Nebraska 56, Nicholls St. 7: Zac Taylor threw a career-high four touchdown passes, Marlon Lucky ran for 103 yards and No. 21 Nebraska prepped for next week's game at Southern California by beating a I-AA oppo-

The Cornhuskers (2-0) scored on six of their first seven possessions while building a 42-0 lead.

TCU 46, UC Davis 13: Jeff Ballard threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score to remain undefeated as TCU's starting quarterback.

The No. 23 Horned Frogs beat I-AA UC Davis for their 12th straight victory.

After replacing injured senior Tye Gunn last season, Ballard has been the starter in the last 10 TCU wins. He was 18-of-23 passing for 190 yards before freshman Marcus Jackson took over to start the fourth quarter for the Frogs (2-0).



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Associated Press

Ricky Santos scored three

touchdowns and passed to David

Ball for two more Saturday, send-

ing Division I-AA New Hamp-

shire past Northwestern 34-17 for

Northwestern (1-1) was play-

ing its first home game since the

death of coach Randy Walker

from a heart attack June 29 and

honored the coach throughout

stop an opponent ranked No. 2

in the I-AA poll. Santos com-

pleted 17 of 21 passes for 197 yards

by halftime as New Hampshire

(0-1) opened a 10-point lead in

its opener. New Hampshire's de-

fense, led by tackle Brendan St.

Peter, shut out Northwestern in

the second half, four times stop-

Colorado St. 14, Colorado 10: Caleb

Hanie's near-perfect passing and

the Rams' stingy defense were

the difference in the Rocky

Mountain Showdown at Den-

The Rams' fortunes improved

thanks to a defense that limited

Colorado to 28 yards in the sec-

ond half and Hanie's precision

passing. He was 20-for-23 — with

two throwaways and just one bad

throw all day - for 233 yards and

Marshall 54, Hofstra 31: Ahmad

Bradshaw rushed for 152 yards

and four touchdowns as the

Thundering Herd (1-1) overcame

an early deficit against a Division

BYU 49, Tulsa 24: John Beck

passed for 240 yards and three

ver's Invesco Field.

a touchdown.

I-AA opponent.

ping fourth-down attempts.

The Wildcats were unable to

one of its biggest victories.

Eagles get kick out of win

Overtime field goal beats No. 18 Clemson

Associated Press

Jolonn Dunbar blocked an extra point in the second overtime, then L.V. Whitworth scored on a 6-yard run to help Boston College beat No. 18 Clemson 34-33 on Saturday — the second consecutive year BC has beaten the Tigers in OT.

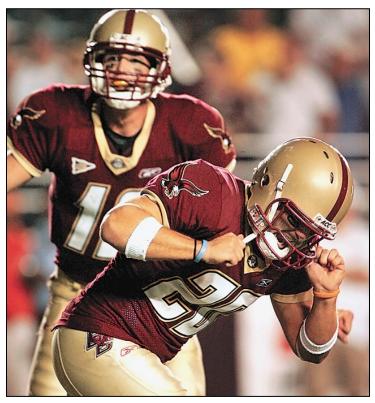
Ryan Ohliger, who missed a 36-yard field goal in the fourth quarter, kicked a 35-yarder on BC's first possession of overtime. Then, after Jad Dean's point after-try was blocked on Clemson's second possession, Ohliger split the uprights for the game-winning PAT and the Eagles (2-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) stormed the field to celebrate.

It was the first home victory over a ranked team for BC coach Tom O'Brien in 10 seasons at Chestnut Hill.

Clemson (1-1, 0-1) was called for offensive pass interference in the second OT, leaving it with a second-and-26 from the 41. But Will Proctor hit Chansi Stuckey with back-to-back 20 yards passes to put the ball on the 1.

James Davis punched it in on second down. But Dunbar came through the middle to deflect the point after and give the Eagles an opening.

Jeff Smith returned a kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown and also had three other long runbacks for BC; his 213 return yards was one shy of the school record. Matt Ryan, who didn't practice



STEVEN SENNE/ASSOCIATED PRESS Boston College kicker Ryan Ohliger, front, celebrates with quarterback Matt Ryan after the winning kick against Clemson.

with the first team most of the week because of an ankle sprain, was 22-for-38 for 212 yards and a touchdown.

lowa 20, Syracuse 13: Albert Young scored on a 1-yard run in the second overtime and the No. 14 Hawkeyes kept Syracuse out of the end zone on seven consecutive plays from the 2.

Playing without star quarterback Drew Tate, it was the Hawkeyes' defense that came through in a big way in the second OT to hand Syracuse (0-2) its 11th loss in a row.

The teams exchanged field goals in the first overtime before Young scored to put Iowa (2-0) ahead. A pass interference call against the Hawkeyes gave the Orange new life at the 2, but quarterback Perry Patterson failed on an option on third down and Paul Chiara was stopped for no gain on a run up the middle.

Just before the game started, Tate was pulled from the lineup with a strained abdominal muscle. Tate has had the injury since preseason camp but played for most of Iowa's season-opening victory over Montana last week.

Oklahoma 37, Washington 20: Paul Thompson threw two touchdown passes to Malcolm Kelly, and Adrian Peterson ran for 165 yards and two scores for the No. 15 Sooners.

Thompson finished with 272 yards on 21-of-33 passing with one interception, and Kelly had a career-high 121 yards on six

touchdowns and Curtis Brown ran for 125 yards to lead the Cougars (1-1) in a game that was delayed for nearly an hour because of lightning.

Michigan St. 52, Eastern Michigan **20:** Matt Trannon set a schoolrecord with 14 catches and Drew Stanton accounted for five touchdowns for the Spartans (2-0).

Trannon had 151 yards receiving, caught two touchdowns and threw a 35-yard scoring pass to A.J. Jimmerson.

Akron 20, North Carolina St. 17: Dennis Kennedy's third 1-yard touchdown run — on the last play of the game — capped a frantic fourth quarter and was decisive for Akron in Raleigh,

Virginia 13, Wyoming 12: A missed extra point in overtime by Wyoming's Aric Goodman allowed the host Cavaliers (1-10 to escape with the win.

Purdue 38, Miami (Ohio) 31: Kory Sheets scored four touchdowns, including the game-winner in overtime for the Boilermakers.

Sheets scored his final touchdown of the game on an 11-yard run during Purdue's only overtime possession.

Miami got to the Purdue 8yard line on its OT possession, but Purdue's defense held for the

Wisconsin 34, Western Illinois 10: P.J. Hill conjured up memories of former Badgers bruiser Ron Dayne for the second straight week, bouncing off defenders on his way to 101 yards and three

touchdowns for Wisconsin.

Rutgers 33, Illinois 0: Derrick Roberson fell on a blocked punt for a touchdown and Devin Mc-Courty scored on a 38-yard interception return in the opening minutes for the Scarlet Knights.

Georgia Tech 38, Samford 6: Calvin Johnson caught two touchdown passes and the Yellow Jackets returned two interceptions for scores for the first time in 30 years.

Wake Forest 14, Duke 13: Chip Vaughn blocked Joe Surgan's 28yard field goal attempt on the final play to preserve the victory.

San Jose State 35, Stanford 34: Yonus Davis rushed for 184 yards and the Spartans rallied from a three-touchdown deficit.

Maryland 24, Middle Tennessee St. 10: Lance Ball rushed for two touchdowns for the Terrapins.

Eugene Gross ran for a TD and Clint Marks was 22-for-41 for 216 yards for Middle Tennessee (1-1), which trailed 17-3 at halftime.

North Alabama 22, Tusculum 10: A.J. Milwee passed for 203 yards and three touchdowns to rally North Alabama, the third-ranked team in Division II, to a victory at Greeneville.

Tusculum (1-1) jumped to a 10-3 lead on Corey Russell's 5-yard touchdown run and a 19-yard field goal by Glen Black, by Milwee hooked up on touchdown passes of 10 and 24 yards to Jason Messing and 50 to Anthony Merritt.

Milwee was 15-of-28 passing for 203 yards.

C-N freshmen find end zone

First-year players score 6 TDs in 41-7 win

JEFFERSON CITY — As coach Ken Sparks would say, the Carson-Newman "youngins" played a good one Saturday at Burke-Tarr Stadium.

The eighth-ranked Eagles defeated Shaw University 41-7, and all six touchdowns were scored by freshmen.

Redshirt quarterback Alex Good scored three times on eight rushes, redshirt Nick McFadden scooped up a blocked punt for a score and true freshman Reggie Hubbard scored twice, finding the end zone on a catch and a kick return.

"That may be some kind of record," coach Sparks said of the freshmen feat. "We're really pleased with the progress they're making, and most of those youngsters are starting to look less like voungsters."

Hubbard and McFadden credited the senior leaders on the team for their success.

"The few seniors we have are very encouraging," Hubbard said. "They're good teachers, and they and we cheer them on."

But those same youngsters who accounted for 285 yards of offense, also were responsible

"Last week we set the record for fewest penalties, and this week we set the record for the most," Sparks said. "I liked last

McFadden, a former prep star at Catholic High School, struck first for the Eagles, scoring from 12 yards out after senior Trenard Foster blocked a punt by the Bears (0-2) in the first four min-

Hubbard's touchdown catch was next, but his two returns for 133 yards would come in the second half.

"That was just a good team

effort," Hubbard said. "Everybody hit somebody; I even had someone hit the kicker. I didn't really have to do anything — I

C-N (2-0) continued the quarterback rotation from last week, rotating Good and sophomore Alex Rouse. Rouse manned the first scoring drive with a 22-yard pass to Hubbard. But he threw an interception on the next drive, and the former Maryville High quarterback didn't see the field again until the second half.

Good, who finished with 71 yards on the ground, entered the game and scored on runs of 1 and 2 yards to give the Eagles a 27-0 halftime lead.

The Eagles defense allowed its first touchdown of the season in the third quarter to Bears back Chris Williams, but pressured senior quarterback Jermonty Kimbrough into 6-for-20 passing

with two interceptions. C-N will play its next three games on the road, starting at St. Augustine's Sept. 16 and ending with its first South Atlantic Conference game at Newberry Sept.

aren't worried about us playing **BY LARUE COOK** well and getting more time than just ran." them — the seniors cheer us on,

for 106 penalty yards.

week a whole lot better.'

utes of the first quarter.

The Chattanooga native returned the opening kick of the second half 80 yards behind a tight C-N wedge to put the Eagles up 34-0.

Scots end one pass short of win

BY DAVE LINK Special to the News Sentinel

MARYVILLE — Centre College defensive end Michael Tribble went to the sideline after Vail Brennan's interception late in the game Saturday against Maryville College.

Tribble, a former Bearden High player, saw some of his teammates starting to relax.

"A lot of our players didn't think we'd have to come back out," Tribble said. "I tried to look everybody in the eye and tell them to get ready to come back

The Colonels had to make one more stop.

Centre's John Perin intercepted a pass by Justin Price in the end zone with 3 seconds left to preserve a 17-14 non-conference victory over Maryville College (1-1).

Maryville College's last drive started at its 33-yard line with 58 seconds left. Price completed 3of-4 passes – not including two spikes to stop the clock – as the Scots reached the Centre 7-yard

On second-and-goal with 8 seconds left, Price lofted a pass to 6-foot-4 Cedric McDonald. It was under-thrown, and 5-7 Perin

grabbed it.

"He just under-threw the ball," Scots coach Tony Ierulli said. "The corner just did what he had

Ierulli said the decision to go for the win instead of a potential tying field goal was simple.

'It was no decision, an easy decision," he said, "eight seconds left to win the football game. Take a shot to win the football game."

Centre (2-0) took advantage of an early turnover.

On the second play of the game, Price threw a pass that went off the hands of McDonald and was intercepted by Adam Hav.

Hay returned it 22 yards to Maryville's 13-yard line.

"It was not an easy ball to catch," Ierulli said. "We've got to be able to deliver the ball bet-

One play later, Nicholas Warren scored on a 13-yard run. Maryville College tied it with

1:06 left in the half on Price's 62yard touchdown pass to Mc-Donald.

The Colonels took a 10-7 lead on Taylor Rockwell's 31-yard field goal with 7:01 left in the half.

Dustin Locke's 39-yard punt

return gave Maryville (1-1) first down at Centre's 26-yard line late in the half, but the drive quickly stalled after two incomplete passes and Price's scramble for minus-4 yards.

Price threw incomplete to Mc-Donald in the end zone on fourth down, and Centre took a 10-7 lead into halftime.

"The defense is really starting to come together this year," Tribble said. "We're starting to make plays we didn't make last year, even though we had a great year last year."

The Scots pulled some trickery after halftime.

Matt Dunn, a sophomore from Kingsport, recovered his own on-side kick at the Centre's 46-yard line.

Six plays later, Price threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to Joseph Bryant. It was 14-10.

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Centre's Taylor Rockwell missed a 30-yard field goal in the third quarter, and the Scots' Brad Daniel missed a 21-yarder with just less than 10 minutes to play in the fourth.

After Daniel's miss, Centre drove 80 yards on eight plays for the go-ahead touchdown.

Phelps scored on a 1-yard sneak with 5:34 left.



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