

ARKANSAS 31, TENNESSEE 14

# Hopelessly hog-tied

## Arkansas makes UT a believer

**FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.** — The saddest sight of Saturday night came at the end of the third quarter at Razorback Stadium.

One by one, Tennessee defensive players held up the obligatory four fingers to signify that the fourth quarter was theirs. The response was more from habit than conviction.

By then, it was obvious that nothing belonged to the Vols. The four fingers only reminded you that Arkansas already had scored four touchdowns. This was the Razorbacks' night. Maybe it's their season, too.

They moved a step closer to winning the SEC West, assured themselves of a spot in the top 10 and often rendered the Vols helpless in a 31-14 victory that wasn't as close as the final score.

UT finally managed a second touchdown and moved past the 200-yard mark in the final minutes. That changed the score, but not Arkansas' dominance.

Arkansas looked even better than it did in a 27-10 upset of Auburn last month that caught almost everybody in the SEC by surprise. And UT looked stunned from the outset, especially on defense.

The Razorbacks struck so hard and fast in the first half, UT coach Phillip Fulmer probably was seeing Nebraska red. The second quarter resembled a reenactment of the third quarter of the 1998 Orange Bowl when the Vols were chasing Ahman Green into the end zone.

This time, the runner in red was Darren McFadden, who had 128 yards rushing by halftime. As inept as UT often looked in its 5-6 season of 2005, it never looked so lost as when the Razorbacks snapped the ball directly to McFadden in the shotgun formation.

Although you never would have guessed it by UT's reaction, the Razorbacks have run the play throughout the season. McFadden would take the snap, fake a handoff to a teammate in motion, then bolt

See **ADAMS** on VR5



**JOHN ADAMS**



Tennessee's Turk McBride sits on the bench in the final minutes of Saturday's 31-14 loss to Arkansas at Fayetteville. McBride was among the leading tacklers, but the Vols gave up 425 yards of total offense.

## McFadden leads run over Vols

BY MIKE STRANGE  
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**FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.** — Of all the storylines discussed during the week leading up to Saturday night's kick-off, only one turned out to be relevant.

Tennessee quarterback Jonathan Crompton did not, in fact, make a big jump forward in his second meaningful game in place of injured Erik Ainge.

Tailback Arian Foster's half-game suspension was a non-factor.

But Tennessee's ability to stop the vaunted Arkansas rushing attack?

Bingo. Perhaps if Darren McFadden had been suspended for the second quarter, the Vols might have had a chance.

McFadden, the Razorbacks' dynamic sophomore tailback, ran for two touchdowns and passed for a third — all in the second quarter.

That would have been enough, but Arkansas landed a few more punches in a 31-14 romp before a Razorback Stadium-record crowd of 76,728.

The 11th-ranked Razorbacks (9-1, 6-0 SEC) raced to a 28-7 halftime lead and were never threatened in moving ever closer to a surprising SEC Western Division title.

The 13th-ranked Vols (7-3, 3-3 SEC) turned in their lowest-scoring effort of the season and lost for a second consecutive week to a ranked SEC West opponent.

"I don't think we answered the bell in the first half," said coach Phillip Fulmer.

"I didn't do a good enough job getting us prepared for the intensity of this football game. From an emotional standpoint, we didn't play at the level we have in the past."

Much like the 28-24 defeat to LSU last week, Tennessee's defense couldn't get off the field. The Razorbacks amassed 425 yards.

Arkansas rushed for 259 yards, joining Air Force and LSU in topping the 200-yard mark against the Vols.

See **VOLS** on VR5

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■ Slideshow of Saturday night's Tennessee-Arkansas game.

## SCOREBOARD

### TOP 25

No. 1 Ohio State 54, Northwestern 10  
No. 2 Michigan 34, Indiana 3  
Kansas State 45, No. 4 Texas 42  
Georgia 37, No. 5 Auburn 15  
No. 6 Florida 17, South Carolina 16  
No. 7 Southern Cal vs. No. 21 Oregon, late

Arizona 24, No. 8 California 20  
No. 9 Notre Dame 39, Air Force 17  
No. 10 West Virginia 42, Cincinnati 24  
No. 11 Arkansas 31, No. 13 Tennessee 14  
No. 12 LSU 28, Alabama 14  
No. 14 Boise State 23, San Jose State 20  
No. 16 Wisconsin 24, Iowa 21

No. 17 Oklahoma 34, Texas Tech 24  
No. 18 Wake Forest 30, Florida State 0  
No. 19 Georgia Tech 7, North Carolina 0  
No. 20 Virginia Tech 23, Kent State 0  
No. 22 Boston College 28, Duke 7  
No. 23 Maryland 14, Miami 13  
Nebraska 28, No. 24 Texas A&M 27

### SEC

Kentucky 38, Vanderbilt 26

### AREA

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Averett 58, Maryville 44

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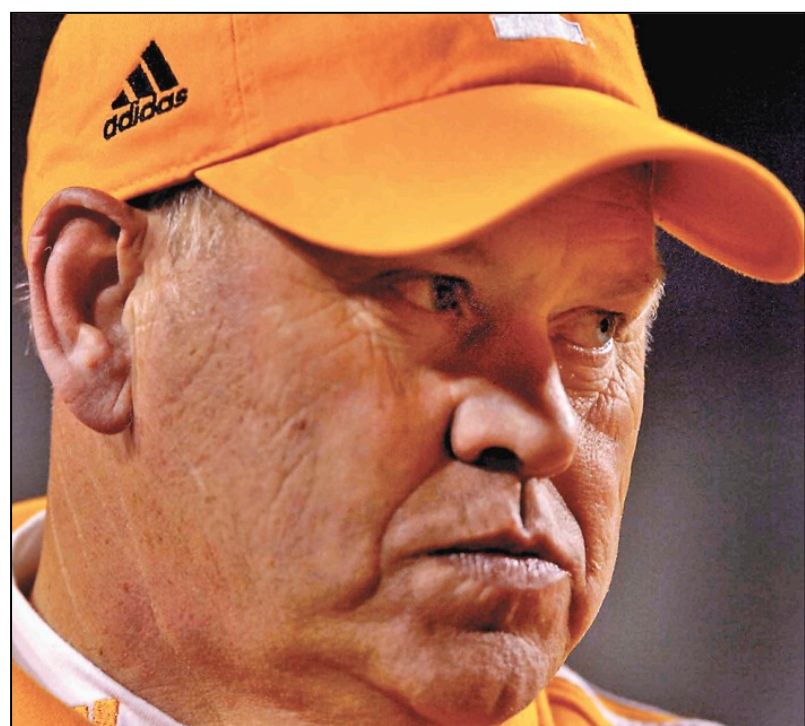
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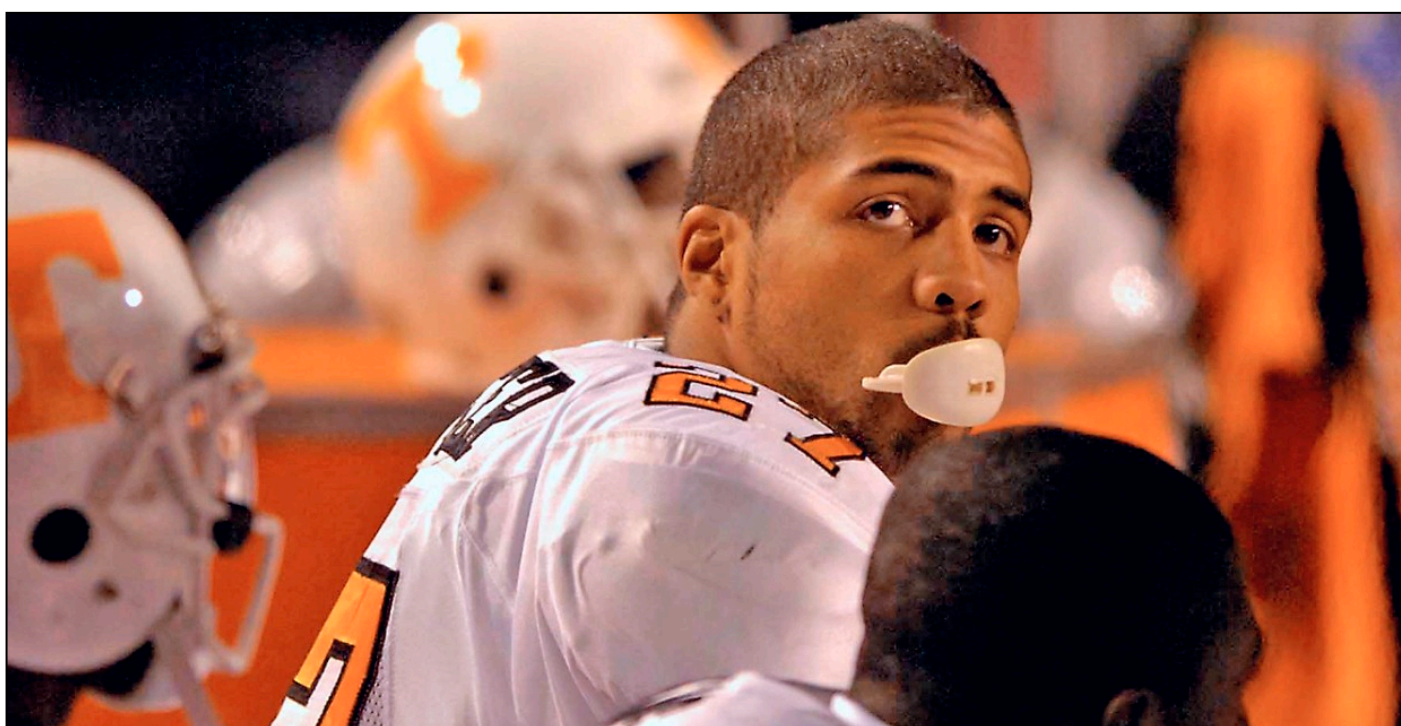


FRAME-BY-FRAME

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL



Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer does not look happy watching the first half of Saturday's game when the Vols fell behind 28-7.



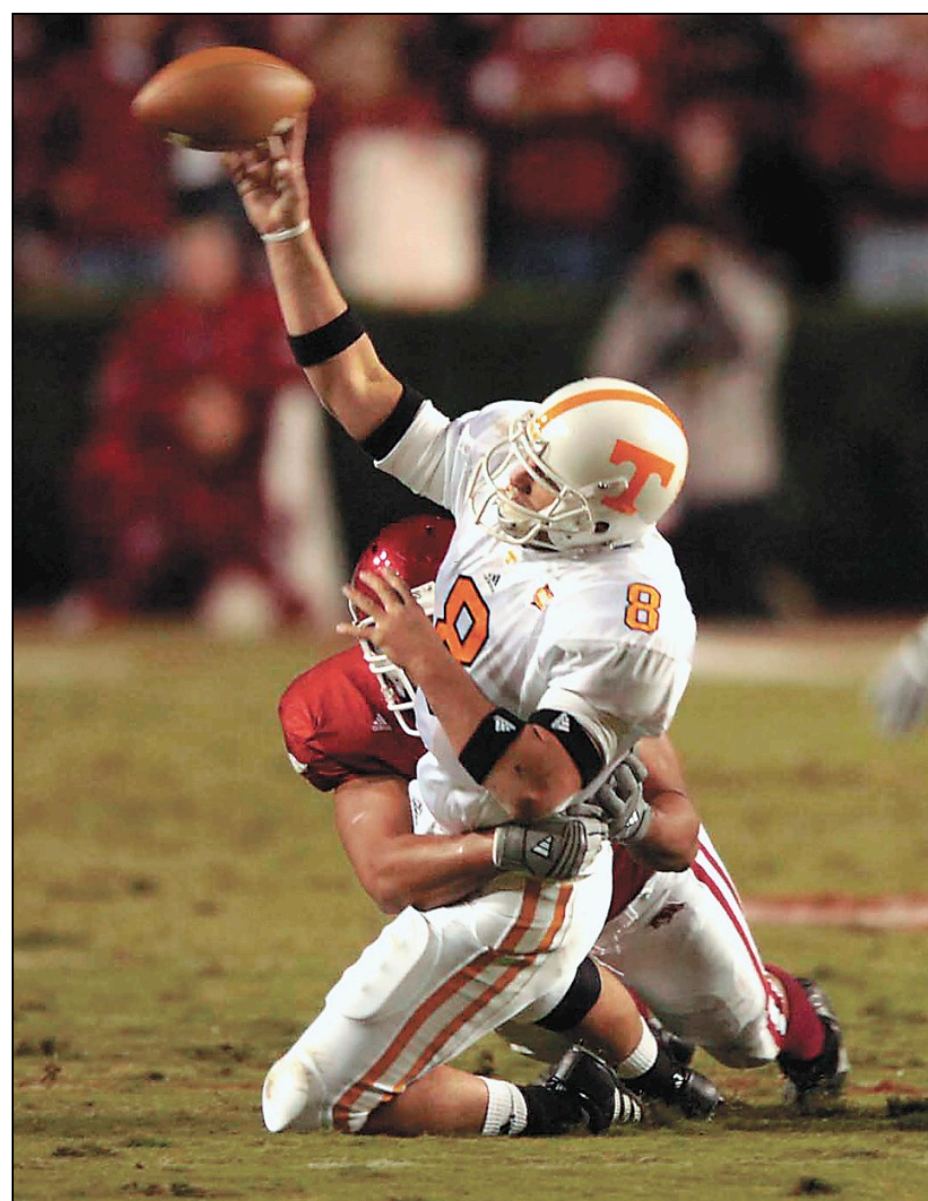
Tennessee running back Arian Foster sits and watches through the first half, serving his half-game suspension for an off-campus incident after the LSU game the Saturday before.



Arkansas running back Darren McFadden, had his way with the Tennessee defense on Saturday, rushing 30 times for 181 yards.



Tennessee receiver Robert Meachem, left, catches a touchdown pass of 27 yards from Jonathan Crompton in front of Arkansas defenders Chris Houston, right, and Kevin Woods.



Tennessee quarterback Jonathan Crompton, front, tries to escape an Arkansas defender while releasing a pass.



# Defense had a plan, but no answer

Vols saw it coming but couldn't handle Arkansas' execution

BY DREW EDWARDS  
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FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — When Tennessee safety Jonathan Hefney popped up at the Vols' 2-yard line with the football, the fumble recovery seemed right on cue.

The Vols were trailing by 21 points, about to go down four scores.

A depleted, banged-up defense made another play when a big play was needed.

This play stopped an 88-yard Arkansas drive 6 feet from the goal line.

Defensive tackle Demonte Bolden, who forced the fumble, knew what was going to happen.

Or at least he thought he did. "Yeah, I thought it was going to be a turning point," said Bolden. "But then the momentum stayed the same. I thought we were going to get up, hyped, get ready to go down the field and play good offense. But that didn't happen."

A defense that has scrapped and fought to keep the 13th-ranked Vols in games throughout the season was just plain beaten in a 31-14 loss to No. 11 Arkansas on Saturday at Razorback Stadium.

For the second straight week, Tennessee's defense gave up more than 230 rushing yards.

This time, it happened against the league's best running game and one of the nation's best running backs.

That doesn't make it any easier to take.



Tennessee's Marvin Mitchell, left, and Jerod Mayo take down Arkansas' Darren McFadden during the first half — a half in which the SEC's leading rusher ran for more than 100 yards.

MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

"We've had back-to-back games where we've given up some yardage," UT defensive coordinator John Chavis said. "We've got to cut that out if we want to win football games."

By the second half, the Vols had cut into Arkansas' ground production.

At halftime, the Razorbacks (9-1, 6-0 SEC) had 179 of their 259 rushing yards.

Sophomore Darren McFadden, who entered Saturday's game as the SEC's only 1,000-

yard back and the No. 4 rusher in the nation, had 128 of his 181 yards in the first 30 minutes.

Everyone on Tennessee's defense knew Arkansas could run the ball.

They just thought they might have a little more luck stopping it.

"You never know exactly what you're going to get until you're there getting it in your face," defensive back Jonathan Wade said. "They executed well. They're the No. 1 rushing offense

in the SEC for a reason. They had a plan and they executed."

The Vols (7-3, 3-3) didn't in the first half, allowing the Razorbacks to do all the damage they needed in order to win.

Arkansas' misdirection and traps up front confused the Vols. Players were out of position and had trouble adjusting in the first 30 minutes.

"Arkansas does a really good job getting defenses off balance, getting guys in the wrong spot," linebacker Ryan Karl said.

"When you get misaligned, you're not going to have as many people on blocks. You're not going to have as many people in the right spot."

McFadden always seemed to be in the right spot, even when he lined up at quarterback.

Leading 7-0, McFadden took over at quarterback for the final three plays of the Razorbacks' next scoring drive.

The results? A 7-yard gain, a 29-yard run by Felix Jones and a 17-yard run by McFadden up

the gut for a touchdown. After UT scored to make it 14-7, McFadden again went under center for the final three plays of a scoring drive.

This time he ran for 9 yards and 10 yards, then hit Marcus Monk for a 12-yard touchdown pass, catching safety Jonathan Hefney out of position.

The Vols expected McFadden to play a little quarterback, just like they expected the Hogs to run.

They just couldn't do much about it.

"They were really running the same plays, faking the reverse, stuff like that," linebacker Jerod Mayo said. "The offensive line did an excellent job moving us around, giving him lanes. You can't give a guy like that quality lanes to do his thing."

When it wasn't McFadden, it was Monk, who followed a career-high 192-yard performance last week against South Carolina with eight catches for 137 yards and two touchdowns.

Monk caught all but three of the Razorbacks' completions and had all but 29 of their passing yards.

Wade said he knew exactly where the ball was going, but like the rest of his teammates, he just couldn't seem to stop it.

"It was on me to go out there and stop Mr. Monk. Didn't execute," Wade said. "It was on us to go out there and stop the run. Didn't execute."

"Coaches put us in position to make plays, they put us where they think we should be, we just have to go execute like (Arkansas) did."

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

# Offense doesn't provide much assistance

Crompton sacked four times as 'line couldn't get it done'

BY DAVE HOOKER  
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FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arron Sears didn't mince words when asked about Tennessee's offensive line performance in a 31-14 loss against Arkansas on Saturday night.

"They kicked our ass," the senior offensive tackle said. "That's what they did. They kicked our ass up front. We couldn't get it done."

UT failed to get it done when it came to protecting redshirt freshman quarterback Jonathan Crompton in his first start. Crompton was sacked four times and pressured on various other occasions, including four official quarterback hurries.

"I expect more out of the offensive line," Sears said.

Crompton, however, wasn't blaming anyone but himself as UT lost its second straight game after a 7-1 start.

"I don't think I got our offense in the groove every time we had the ball," Crompton said. "Every now and then, we got a drive going. I take responsibility for that. That's my fault. Not getting things going all the time."

At times, Crompton was efficient, yet UT's offense obviously lacked the

explosiveness it has counted on this season. Crompton, who was 16-of-34 passing for 174 yards with two touchdowns and an interception, admitted he missed some open receivers downfield.

UT's talented trio of receivers — Robert Meachem, Jayson Swain and Bret Smith — only accounted for 154 yards against Arkansas. Their longest play of the game came from Smith, who had a 39-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter.

"It wasn't really them shutting down the receivers," Crompton said. "It just was me not finding the open one all the time."

Receivers coach Trooper Taylor said he was impressed with Arkansas' physical cornerbacks.

"They were pretty good," Taylor said. "I'll give them credit. They did a good job of making sure they were disrupting our routes early."

Taylor also said that Arkansas adjusted from their early defensive style to handle UT's downfield threats. Gone was the one- or no-safety scheme that Arkansas had played all season.

"They were playing two safeties just like I knew they would," Taylor said.

Arkansas' emphasis on the passing game should have given UT some openings up front to run the ball. For a moment, that looked as if it might be the case. Then, that moment quickly passed.



Tennessee receiver Bret Smith comes down with the football between his knees, but the pass play was ruled an incompleteness Saturday.

MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

UT tailbacks LaMarcus Coker and Montario Hardesty combined for 71 yards on 13 carries in the first half. The tailbacks only rushed for 45 yards on nine carries in the second half.

The 28-7 halftime score probably

took UT's running game out of the equation almost as much as the Razorbacks.

"That's a rough situation to be put in," Sears said, "especially with a freshman quarterback back there because

the defensive ends and defensive tackles are going to pin their ears back. That's that they did tonight."

For the second time in a row UT lost the battle for time of possession. UT's offensive players knew they needed to do better.

"We knew coming into this game they had a great running game," Sears said of Arkansas. "We needed to keep them off the field more than we did. We just couldn't get it done."

Said Crompton: "Our defense played their butts off and we left them on the field too long again."

Crompton said his first college start wasn't intimidating but admitted that he can perform better given more experience.

"Maybe I got a little too jacked up in the beginning," Crompton said, "just typical first game stuff."

Emotion seemed to be as much a factor as execution in Razorback Stadium on Saturday night. Although there's no stat for such an intangible, UT obviously came up short.

"We tried to match their emotion but we just couldn't," Smith said. "They had the crowd on their side and we just couldn't overcome it."

Perhaps Smith best summed up what the nation was asking of the Razorbacks before their nationally televised whipping of the Vols.

"They're for real," Smith said simply. "This Arkansas team's for real."

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# Coker (51 yards) shows proof 'knee feels fine'

BY MIKE STRANGE  
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**FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.** — If there were anything resembling a silver lining in Tennessee's 31-14 loss to Arkansas here Saturday night, it might be the return of LaMarcus Coker.

The redshirt freshman tailback looked good in his first action since suffering a sprained knee against Alabama on Oct. 21.

Coker missed the South Carolina and LSU games, but returned Saturday, gaining 51 yards on nine carries, an average of 5.7 per attempt.

"The knee feels fine," Coker said. "We had a little bit of success running the ball. When you get down a couple of scores, it's hard to run the ball. It takes time off the clock."

Coker got most of his work in the first quarter. He entered on the third series and ripped off runs of 8, 16, 12 and 11 yards.

Starter Montario Hardesty carried 12 times for 52 yards, a 4.3 average.

The Vols finished with 92 yards rushing on 29 carries, their highest net since the Georgia game on Oct. 7.

**Foster's Return:** Arian Foster was suspended for the first half due to his arrest last weekend in the late-night incident at a Knoxville night club that led coach Phillip Fulmer to dole out three suspensions.

Foster made only a brief appearance in the fourth quarter, carrying the ball one time for a 1-yard gain. On the next play, Jonathan Crompton threw an interception and Foster didn't touch the ball again.

Reserve fullback David Holbert's one-game suspension is over. He will be available against Vanderbilt next Saturday.

Defensive back Antonio Wardlow's two-game suspension carries through the Vanderbilt game.

**Smith Comes Home:** Senior receiver Bret Smith didn't have a happy homecoming to his native state, but he made himself noticed by the crowd.

The Warren, Ark., product was booed every time he touched the ball — four catches for 62 yards.

But he did haul in a 39-yard touchdown pass in the final minute that put him over the 1,000-yard mark for his career.

The touchdown was the 14th of his career.

Smith also served as a game captain. Asked what was going through his head being back in Arkansas, Smith replied:



Ja'Kouri Williams of Tennessee drops the opening kickoff against Arkansas in Saturday night's game in Fayetteville, Ark.

MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

"We lost ... that is what's running through my head. The better team won tonight."

Smith said he wasn't surprised Arkansas fans booed him on Saturday.

"When you don't go to school here and pick Tennessee, it's expected," the former Warren (Ark.) High School star said. "I wasn't heartbroken."

**Third Time:** The victory was only the third ever by the Razorbacks over Tennessee. The Vols lead the series 12-3, with the Arkansas wins coming in 1992, 1999 and 2006.

Each time, Tennessee was nationally

ranked. The Vols were No. 4 in '92, No. 3 in '99 and 13th this year.

**For Kicks:** Punter Britton Colquitt had an uncharacteristically bad performance in the first half against Arkansas. The sophomore averaged 34.2 yards per punt on five attempts before intermission. His longest kick was 38 yards.

"I wasn't focusing on the basics like I normally do," Colquitt said. "I could have been a lot better help if I had kicked the ball like I did this season."

Colquitt bounced back in the second half, averaging 47.3 yards on three punts. "I was questioning myself the whole

first half," Colquitt said. "To go in there and hit some good kicks really helps your confidence."

Colquitt said the crowd wasn't a factor.

"I believe I'm more mature than that," Colquitt said of the crowd. "Maybe the cold had a little bit to do with it. I didn't hit any of them the way I wanted to."

Colquitt said cold weather can shorten the distance on his kicks by five to 10 yards. It also lessens the margin for error.

"You've got to hit more of a sweet spot when the ball's colder because the ball's hard," he said.

**Meachem In Exclusive Club:** Junior receiver Robert Meachem became only the fourth Vol to top the 1,000-yard receiving mark in a season. He did so with an 11-yard reception in the first half. Meachem has 54 receptions for 1,054 yards this season. He caught four passes for 65 yards against Arkansas.

Marcus Nash (1,170) set the record for most receiving yards in a season in 1997. Joey Kent topped 1,000 receiving yards twice, in 1995 and 1996. Kelley Washington did it in 2001.

Dave Hooker contributed to this report.

## VOLS

from VR1

McFadden finished with 181 yards rushing. In the fateful second quarter he had touchdown runs of 17 and 5 yards and lobbed a 12-yard TD pass to Marcus Monk.

Monk hauled in Arkansas' other touchdown, a 10-yard pass from Casey Dick in the first quarter.

Crompton threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Robert Meachem with 9:50 to play in the second quarter.

It cut the Razorbacks' lead to 14-7, but Tennessee didn't get anything going again until it was too late.

The Vols didn't cross midfield in the second half until the final minute of the game.

Shortly afterward, Crompton and Bret Smith hooked up on a 39-yard scoring pass with 30

seconds to play.

Crompton was 16-of-34 passing for 174 yards. He was intercepted once and sacked four times.

"He's a young guy," said Fulmer. "This atmosphere would get to anybody."

Tennessee's 266 yards of offense was the third time this year the Vols have fallen short of 300. All three were losses.

The Razorbacks have won nine consecutive games since a season-opening 50-14 loss to Southern Cal.

"I love the heart of this team," said coach Houston Nutt.

"Our seniors deserve a lot of credit hanging in there and believing in each other from week one. A lot of people jumped off the bandwagon.

"These seniors deserved a going-out victory like this tonight. It was perfect."

Arkansas took control by scoring on four of six possessions, including all three in the second

quarter.

None came cheap. The Razorbacks drove 53, 72, 82 and 64 yards.

The only one that didn't directly bear McFadden's fingerprints — or footprints — was the first.

On third-and-goal from the Tennessee 10, Dick lofted a perfect toss to the 6-foot-6 Monk, who made the catch behind 6-foot defender Jonathan Wade for a 7-0 lead.

Monk finished with eight catches for 137 yards.

In a replay of last week's LSU game, the Vols got little done in the first quarter offensively. Crompton completed one pass and three of four series were three-and-out.

The Razorbacks opened the second period with a 72-yard, six-play drive. McFadden took a direct snap on the final three plays, which covered 53 yards. McFadden got the touchdown on a 17-yard run to make it 14-0.

Trophy.

Sure, it might be a long shot for the sophomore tailback. But this whole Arkansas team is a long shot.

It lost its season opener 50-14 to Southern Cal. It beat Vanderbilt by two points and edged Alabama in overtime.

The way it struggled through September, you couldn't help but wonder if the rout of Auburn was an aberration. You can stop wondering now.

"They've got a chance to win the SEC championship," Arkansas coach Houston Nutt said. "They are pumped up about it. And they come out ready to play."

You could have gotten an "amen" from everybody in the UT locker room.

The only question the Razorbacks had on offense: "Do we want to trick 'em or stick 'em?"

They demonstrated both power and finesse behind a veteran offensive line that repeatedly blew the Vols off the ball.

"The core of the offense is the offensive line," Nutt said.

"Don't forget about them."

And don't forget about the Arkansas defense, either.

You knew UT would have trouble matching up against Arkansas' running game. You didn't know it would be overwhelmed by an improving Arkansas defense.

Backup quarterback Jonathan Crompton, playing for an injured Erik Ainge, was sacked four times and threw an interception. His two touchdown passes were lost in the Arkansas stampede.

Something else was lost, too. Until Saturday, UT had played like a top-10 team, even in losses — by one point to Florida and by four to LSU. It might have lost games but it didn't lose its fight.

The Vols didn't go down fighting against Arkansas. They just went down fast.

And even as they held up four fingers before the fourth quarter, you knew they were down for good.

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

The Vols responded with their only drive of the half.

A personal foul on Arkansas after a 12-yard Montario Hardesty run gave UT first down at the Razorbacks' 20.

On third-and-17 at the 27, Crompton fired a bullet to Meachem for the touchdown and it was 14-7 with 9:50 left in the half.

That was plenty of time for Arkansas to zip down the field twice and turn the game into a rout.

Two scoring drives, a total of 12 plays and the Tennessee defense never even forced a third down.

After McFadden ran 9 and 10 yards on direct snaps, UT called timeout to get organized.

To no avail, it turned out. On the next snap, McFadden took the snap and passed 12 yards to a wide-open Monk to make it 21-7.

After another three-and-out Tennessee possession, McFad-

den ripped off a 37-yard run on which Jonathan Hefney's tackle saved a touchdown.

Make that, delayed a touchdown. Four plays later, McFadden took a direct snap and ran 5 yards to make it 28-7.

Arkansas picked up where it left off to open the third quarter, driving hard toward the Tennessee end zone.

The Vols were saved by McFadden's fumble, recovered by Hefney at the 2.

After that, not much happened.

The only Arkansas score of the second half was a 28-yard Jeremy Davis field goal following a Kevin Woods interception off Crompton in the fourth quarter.

It looked like 31-7 would be the final count, until the Tennessee passing game finally got back on track in the final minutes.

By then, it didn't matter. McFadden's damage couldn't be undone.

## 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

Nov. 4 — LSU, L 28-24

**Saturday — at Arkansas, L 31-14**

18 — at Vanderbilt, 12:30 (WVLT)

25 — Kentucky

## ADAMS

from VR1

up the middle of the befuddled UT defense for huge chunks of yardage.

Occasionally, he actually handed the ball off. And once, he even threw it. Guess what? That worked, too.

With 6:56 to play in the first half and Arkansas 12 yards away from another touchdown, UT called timeout, perhaps to alert its defenders that if McFadden gets the ball, he probably will keep it.

Maybe that's why the Vols ignored 6-foot-6 receiver Marcus Monk as he drifted into their end zone. It was his second touchdown reception of the night, and another reminder that the UT defense did little right, other than to recover a McFadden fumble on its 2-yard line on the opening drive of the third quarter.

That was McFadden's only mistake on the night. He didn't just run through the UT defense. He ran himself into contention for the Heisman

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# Razorbacks: McFadden can do it all

Sophomore back accounts for 216 yards against UT

BY MARK BURGESS  
burgess@knews.com

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK. — Arkansas quarterback Casey Dick and running back Felix Jones both came up with the same answer.

At different times, they were asked if there's anything Arkansas teammate Darren McFadden can't do.

Anything?  
"No," Jones said. "I mean, what do you think? I believe he can do anything he puts his mind to."

Dick couldn't come up with anything either.

"He can do everything," Dick said. "He's the complete back."

The Razorbacks' sophomore tailback proved that to the nation by slicing and dicing his way through Tennessee during a 31-14 victory Saturday night.

ESPN's Gameday crew was on hand to watch McFadden rush 30 times for 181 yards and two touchdowns.

They saw him throw a 12-yard TD pass to Marcus Monk when he was lined up in the shotgun at quarterback.

He also caught a pass and returned a kick, accounting for 216 total yards.

On his right bicep, McFadden has a tattoo with a mean-looking dog and the words "D-Dawg Bustin' Loose."

He definitely broke loose against the Vols.

All of a sudden, Heisman contender in the same sentence with McFadden isn't such a huge stretch.

McFadden became just the fourth running back to rush for 100 yards against a Tennessee defense in 34 games.

He did it midway through the second quarter.

"This was a lot of fun because it really boosts your confidence when you come out here and beat a team as good as Tennessee," McFadden said.

Fun wasn't exactly the word Vol de-



Arkansas coach Houston Nutt, center, celebrates with his players after beating Tennessee, 31-14, at Razorback Stadium in Fayetteville, Ark., on Saturday night.

MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

fenders were using.

"They have the best running back I've seen since I've been here, and I've been here three years," UT linebacker Ryan Karl said. "I believe the scheme to their offensive gameplan is No. 5."

Just for comparison sake, Tennessee has rushed for 1,062 yards as a team this season.

McFadden has 1,219 by himself.

Against Tennessee, he also lined up at quarterback 14 times. On those plays, Arkansas gained 121 yards and scored three touchdowns.

"Tennessee's defense was having a hard time," McFadden said. "I guess they weren't getting lined up right or something."

Finally, McFadden said, the Razorbacks should begin getting some national

respect.

"People haven't been respecting us all year," he said. "When they talk about the one-loss teams, we don't get mentioned a whole lot."

"I feel like we proved ourselves tonight."

It didn't hurt that California, Texas, Auburn and Louisville — each ranked ahead of No. 11 Arkansas — lost this week.

"That just opened up our eyes a whole lot," he said. "Now, they have no choice but to move us up in the rankings because so many teams ahead of us lost."

**Trash-Talking Jamaal:** Arkansas defensive end Jamaal Anderson admitted he and Tennessee quarterback Jonathan Crompton exchanged words a couple of times.

It was convenient since Anderson was in Crompton's face most of the night and finished with three of the Razorbacks' four sacks.

"We were both talking a little trash back and forth," Anderson said. "But I admit I started it."

It was part of the plan. Arkansas hoped they could shake up Crompton making his first UT start.

"When it was in the paper that a freshman quarterback was going to start, we knew if we got back there and rattled him a little bit that it could stir stuff up," Anderson said. "We knew he was coming in on the road and they were going to have to establish some kind of running game. They weren't able to do that."

**Monk Man:** Besides McFadden, Monk was the primary weapon for the Razorbacks.

He had eight catches for 137 yards and two TDs.

"We understand teams are going to respect the line and it's just up to receivers to make plays," Monk said. "I'm about the only receiver who can make plays."

"We just keep getting better every game."

**Alworth Honored:** Former Arkansas great Lance Alworth was an honorary captain and recognized on the field before the game.

**Two For Two:** McFadden's 12-yard second quarter touchdown pass to Arkansas receiver Marcus Monk against the Vols was only his second pass of the season. His last attempt was just as successful. It resulted in a touchdown against Louisiana-Monroe.

## GameDay visit a big hit in Fayetteville

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Several thousand fans were on hand Saturday for the live broadcast of ESPN College GameDay.

Arkansas hosted the popular pregame show for the first time, and Razorbacks supporters were ready. The show is famous for the rowdy fans that gather in the background behind the commentators.

"Any time you go to a new place, you always are excited because you know there's going to be a buzz in the air," commentator Kirk Herbstreit said. "This was awesome. This is a great opportunity for Arkansas to show the country how good their fans are. I think they took advantage of it."

Herbstreit was joined by Chris Fowler, Lee Corso and Desmond Howard.

The show aired 10 a.m.-noon and was set up in the parking lot overlooking the northeast corner of the Razorbacks' stadium. Fans called their hogs, sang the Arkansas fight song and followed the broadcast on a big screen, cheering when commentators praised the Razorbacks and booing when

rivals like Texas were discussed.

When the show addressed Auburn's place in the national championship picture, fans chanted "We beat Auburn" — in reference to Arkansas' 27-10 win over the Tigers earlier in the season. Fans also yelled "D-Mac Heisman" in an effort to hype Razorbacks running back Darren McFadden for the Heisman Trophy.

Many spectators held up signs for the television cameras with the letters E S P N highlighted. One said "SMOKEY KNOWS PIGS DOMINATE" in reference to Smokey, Tennessee's bluetick coonhound mascot. There were some Vols fans around, though — another sign said "SMOKEY DINES ON PORK RINDS".

One sign toward the front of the crowd said "CHOOSE WISELY CORSO" with a hog drawing next to a box with a check mark. At the end of the show, commentators offer predictions on the day's games. The crowd roared its approval when Herbstreit picked Arkansas.

Corso then followed suit — and put on a giant hog head for good measure.



ESPN's "College Gameday" program analyst Kirk Herbstreit, right, pats Lee Corso on the head while Corso dons a hog head Saturday morning after picking Arkansas to beat Tennessee.

NEEMAH A. ESMAELPOUR/ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Kentucky becomes bowl eligible, 38-26

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Laughingstocks no more, the Kentucky Wildcats are almost certainly heading to the postseason and still have two games left to upgrade the destination.

They became eligible for their first bowl game since 1999 by winning a 38-26 slugfest over Vanderbilt on Saturday. It was the first meaningful game in years between the two teams, long the doormats of the SEC.

"We're a team now that can say we've got a shot in this league," Kentucky coach Rich Brooks said. "We don't want to be cellar dwellers. We don't want to be down on the bottom."

The Wildcats (6-4, 4-3 SEC) aren't, at least not this year. They've clinched no worse than a .500 record in both the regular season and SEC play, all but punching their postseason ticket.

"We can't be complacent now that we've accomplished it," said Keenan Burton, who caught 11 passes for 171 yards and two touchdowns. "We've got to stay focused and humble."

Representatives of five bowl games were on hand to scout both teams, but the loss knocks Vanderbilt (4-7, 1-6) out of contention. The Commodores, who haven't appeared in a bowl since 1982, lost for the fifth time in their last six meetings with the Wildcats.

Andre Woodson threw for 450 yards and four touchdowns, the two to Burton, in the

battle of two prolific passing offenses and two immensely vulnerable defenses. The Kentucky quarterback has 24 touchdowns this year — four times as many as he had last year.

"Numbers are great, but the biggest thing is that we executed and moved down the field," Woodson said.

Kentucky tailback Rafael Little, playing for the first time in more than a month after undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery, gave the Wildcats the lead for good midway through the fourth quarter with a 2-yard touchdown run. Little finished with 20 carries for 132 yards, including a 49-yard run on Kentucky's first possession. He also caught eight passes for 114 yards.

"We didn't do a very good job of tackling him," Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson said. "He caught short passes and turned them into long ones."

Faced with fourth-and-goal on the Kentucky 2 midway through the fourth quarter, Vanderbilt had a chance to regain the lead. But Kentucky cornerback E.J. Adams picked off Chris Nickson's pass and ran it back to midfield.

Woodson then found DeMoreo Ford open in the end zone for a 27-yard touchdown to give the Wildcats a 31-20 lead, and Kentucky cornerback Marcus McClinton stopped Vanderbilt's next drive with another interception near the end zone.

Woodson iced the victory by throwing his fourth touchdown — a 57-yarder — to Burton.

It had been several years since these two teams met in such an important game. The win gave Kentucky a 38-37-4 lead in the all-time series.

Although it ended up being a battle of defensive futility, neither team got on the board until midway through the second quarter, when Kentucky freshman Lones Seiber nailed a 28-yard field goal. The former Central High School standout also missed two field goals.

Kentucky had started the drive on its own 4, after Wesley Woodyard ended a Vanderbilt threat by stripping the ball from Nickson just before the goal line.

Nickson needed less than two minutes to put the Commodores in front 7-3. He completed a 53-yard pass to Earl Bennett and a 26-yarder to Marlon White before running it in himself for a one-yard score.

Nickson led the Commodores with 71 rushing yards and two touchdowns. He also threw for 446 yards and one score — a 41-yard pass to Bennett with no time left and the game out of reach.

"I don't know about championship caliber at this point, but we are a very competitive team with more weapons than we've ever had since I've been here," Brooks said.



JAMES CRISP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky receiver Steve Johnson hauls in a touchdown pass over Vanderbilt defender Joel Caldwell during the third quarter of Saturday's SEC game in Lexington, Ky. The Wildcats won, 38-26.

# Georgia destroys Auburn's title hopes

## Bulldogs victimize Tigers in 37-15 rout

Associated Press

**AUBURN, Ala.** — Georgia did more than just spoil No. 5 Auburn's title hopes. The Bulldogs finally played like defending SEC champions.

With Tra Battle returning one of his three first-half interceptions for a touchdown and freshman quarterback Matthew Stafford's poised passing and running, the Bulldogs salvaged a disappointing season with an emphatic 37-15 victory over the Tigers on Saturday.

And those embarrassing losses to Vanderbilt and Kentucky? What losses?

"I'm definitely not thinking about Vandy and Kentucky," Georgia defensive tackle Ray Gant said. "That was easily erased from my memory with this win."

"This is the sweetest victory I've ever had."

Georgia (7-4, 4-4 SEC) all but erased Auburn's hopes of even winning an SEC championship, much less a national title.

The Tigers (9-2, 5-2) entered the game as nearly two-touchdown favorites and were among a handful of one-loss teams trying to play into a Bowl Championship Series title shot. Ranked sixth in the latest BCS standings, Auburn was unable to put up much of a fight in this one.

"They came here with a mission and got it done at the expense of us," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said. "Today was one of those days where there wasn't anything going our way."

The result was the implosion of an Auburn team that struggled against other underdogs such as Mississippi and South Carolina and was dominated by then-unranked Arkansas.

The Bulldogs, who had lost four of their last five games, jumped out to a stunning 30-7 halftime lead against the nation's No. 4 scoring defense and avoided a losing SEC record. They sacked Brandon Cox four times and Battle swiped three of Cox's eight first-half passes.

No team had scored that many points against Auburn since a 38-17 loss to Arkansas in 2002.



TODD BENNETT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Georgia's Tra Battle looks like Superman as he flies through the air while diving into the end zone after returning his interception of a pass from Auburn quarterback Brandon Cox on Saturday in Auburn, Ala. Battle played like Superman with three interceptions in the first half.

"They just beat us. They had an answer for everything we did," said Cox, who was intercepted four times and went 4-of-12 for 35 yards. "It seemed like everything we did didn't work."

The opposite was largely true for Stafford, who completed 14 of 20 passes for 219 yards, ran seven times for 83 yards and accounted for two touchdowns. He had been intercepted eight times in his last three games, but none on this day.

"It's definitely a big one for me and for the team," Stafford said. "We gave

ourselves a chance even though a lot of people didn't. We just did a great job, a total team effort of pulling one out."

Georgia outgained the Tigers 446-171 and held onto the ball for 38 minutes.

And to think Georgia coach Mark Richt was questioning his offensive plan on the eve of the game.

"I was probably about as low as I have been all season," Richt said. "I thought that it was the worst thing I had ever seen. I was looking at how I could get Matthew some confidence and I thought this (game plan) was awful."

It was hardly awful. Besides Stafford's play — including passes of 40 and 53 yards to set up first-half TDs — Kregg Lumpkin rushed for a career-high 105 yards and had a touchdown run and catch for the Bulldogs.

Stafford took a draw play untouched for a 9-yard touchdown on third-and-goal early in the fourth quarter to make it 37-15.

That ended Auburn's short-lived rally attempt.

Courtney Taylor had run 31 yards on an end around and Cox hit Rod Smith

for a 34-yard touchdown pass. The Tigers converted a 2-point pass with 4:27 left in the third quarter.

Cox banged up a tender right knee on a sack on the Tigers' first offensive play, laying on his back and briefly grabbing his leg. He said it didn't affect his throwing.

Battle was the big beneficiary of Cox's mistakes. He returned his second pick 30 yards for a touchdown with 4:56 left in the opening half and posted the first three-interception game by a Georgia player since 1982.

## Russell still on target; LSU drops Alabama

Associated Press

**BATON ROUGE, La.** — JaMarcus Russell threw three touchdown passes and frustrated Alabama with drive-extending scrambles to help No. 12 LSU keep its slim hopes for an SEC West Division title alive with a 28-14 victory Saturday night.

Russell was an efficient 18-of-21 passing for 207 yards and took only one sack. He connected with Early Doucet, Dwyane Bowe and Jacob Hester for scores. Freshman running back Keiland Williams gave the Tigers an early lead on a 38-yard touchdown run.

LSU (8-2, 4-2, SEC) also did not turn the ball over, unlike a feisty Alabama squad that might have pulled off an upset if not for missed opportunities.

Alabama (6-5, 2-5) held a 2:16 advantage in time of possession and nearly matched the Tigers in total yards, but came away from four promising drives with no points because of two turnovers and two missed field goals.

LSU's defense had a lot to do with that. The Tigers preserved a 21-14 lead at the half when Daniel Francis stripped John Parker Wilson on a sack and defensive end Chase Pittman recovered with 19 seconds left in the second quarter.

In the third quarter, LaRon Landry intercepted Wilson's tipped pass at the LSU 12.

In the fourth quarter, Ricky Jean-Francois' sack, LSU's fourth of the game, forced Alabama to settle for Jamie Christensen's 40-yard field goal attempt that went wide. Christensen also missed wide on a 49-yarder on Alabama's first drive.

Wilson was 22-of-35 for 291 yards and one interception. He kept Alabama in the game early with 29-yard touchdown pass to Kenneth Darby and a 6-yard fade to Nikita Stover. However, Wilson lost one of his favorite targets in the second half when Keith Brown hurt his knee.

Alabama also struggled to run, gaining only 78 yards on the ground.

Alabama tried to pressure Rus-

### SEC STANDINGS

#### EAST

	SEC	All
Florida	7-1	9-1
Kentucky	4-3	6-4
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>3-3</b>	<b>7-3</b>
Georgia	4-4	7-4
South Carolina	3-5	5-5
Vanderbilt	1-6	4-7

#### WEST

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

#### Saturday's Results

Arkansas 31, Tennessee 14

Georgia 37, Auburn 15

Kentucky 38, Vanderbilt 26

Florida 17, South Carolina 16

LSU 28, Alabama 14

#### Next Saturday's Games

Tennessee at Vanderbilt, 12:30 (WVLT)

Western Carolina at Florida, noon

MTSU at South Carolina, 12:30

Louisiana-Monroe at Kentucky, 1

Arkansas at Mississippi State, 2:30

Auburn at Alabama, 3:30 (WVLT)

Ole Miss at LSU, 8

sell, but that often backfired. The first time the Crimson Tide brought heavy pressure, the 6-foot-6, 257-pound quarterback shook a tackler off of his leg, rolled left and unloaded a 27-yard bullet to Doucet coming across the field. Several plays later, Russell read an all-out blitz and dumped the ball off to Doucet, who took off into the open field for a 30-yard touchdown that made it 14-0 in the first quarter.

Later in the first half, two Alabama rushers appeared to have Russell in trouble nearly 15 yards behind the line of scrimmage. Russell escaped both, keeping his balance as he was nearly tripped up and scrambling for a 5-yard gain. That same drive, Russell escaped the rush again by rolling left and drilled a 19-yard strike to Bowe in the end zone to give LSU a 21-7 lead.



JOHN RAOUX/ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Carolina's Casper Brinkley, right, flies over Florida's DeShawn Wynn in the first half Saturday in Gainesville, Fla. The No. 6 Gators blocked a field goal attempt as time expired and beat the Gamecocks, 17-16.

## Florida blocks upset bid, 17-16

### Gators hold off Gamecocks, ruin Spurrier's return

Associated Press

**GAINESVILLE, Fla.** — Jarvis Moss jumped as high as he could, extending his arms toward the sky.

The Florida defensive end blocked a 48-yard field goal as time expired to give the sixth-ranked Gators a 17-16 victory over South Carolina on Saturday, keeping their national title hopes intact and sending Steve Spurrier home a loser in his return to The Swamp.

Moss also blocked an extra point that was equally important in determining the outcome.

"It felt good not to let the guys down," Moss said. "I think we've got something special going on."

The Gators (9-1, 7-1 SEC) were fourth in the latest Bowl Championship Series rankings, right behind Louisville and just in front of Texas. But with the Cardinals losing at Rutgers on Thursday night and with No. 1 Ohio State playing No. 2 Michigan next Saturday, the Gators believe they have as good a chance as anybody of getting to the national championship game as a one-

loss team.

Their former coach agreed. "This could be the year of the Gators," Spurrier said.

Spurrier stood near the 31-yard line with his legs crossed as Ryan Succop lined up for the game-winner. Succop's kick cleared the line of scrimmage but didn't get over the outstretched arms of the 6-foot-6 Moss.

It was the third blocked kick of the game for Florida.

Moss batted down Succop's extra point attempt earlier in the fourth quarter, leaving the Gamecocks (5-5, 3-5) with a 16-10 advantage following Mike Davis' second touchdown run.

Defensive tackle Ray McDonald also blocked a 47-yard field goal attempt in the first half.

"You've got to find a way to win football games," Florida defensive coordinator Charlie Strong said. "We found a way."

After Davis' score, Chris Leak and Tim Tebow teamed up to put the Gators ahead. Tebow picked up 6 yards on fourth-and-one in Florida territory, Leak ran for 17 a few plays later and then added an 8-yard scramble on third down.

Tebow scored on the next play from 12 yards out. Florida then made the extra point, which turned out to be the differ-

ence in the game.

"It came down to they can kick extra points and we didn't," Spurrier said.

Leak completed 19 of 27 passes for 254 yards, including a 21-yard touchdown pass to Dallas Baker. He also threw an interception and was sacked twice. Still, coach Urban Meyer called it his best game in two seasons.

DeShawn Wynn and Percy Harvin helped take pressure off Leak. Wynn gained 90 yards and Harvin totaled 111 yards rushing and receiving.

The teams combined for 811 yards, 51 first downs and just one turnover.

Blake Mitchell, making his first start in two months, threw for 275 yards for South Carolina. Davis had 94 yards rushing, and Cory Boyd added 40 on the ground.

Mitchell drove the Gamecocks to the Florida 34 on the final drive, but a false start moved them back 5 yards. On third-and-17, he connected with Freddie Brown III for 8 yards to get them back into field goal territory.

Then Moss stepped up. "He's a freak," Meyer said. "That kid could block a kick on anyone," Spurrier said. "I don't like relying on field goals."





# Ohio State, Michigan remain on collision course

Next week's winner earns berth in BCS title game

Associated Press

The game everybody's been waiting — and waiting and waiting — for is finally a reality.

No. 1 Ohio State against No. 2 Michigan next Saturday in Columbus for a spot in the BCS national title game.

The Big Ten rivals will meet in a 1 vs. 2 matchup for the first time, and it will mark the first time there are two 1-2 games in the same regular season. Earlier, the top-ranked Buckeyes played at No. 2 Texas.

If the Buckeyes beat Michigan, they'll become the first team to play in three 1 vs. 2 matchups in a single season when they play for the national championship on Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz.

The anticipation for Ohio State-Michigan has been building for more than a month as they marched through the soft parts of their schedules. The Buckeyes and Wolverines had easy times improving to 11-0 Saturday.

Troy Smith threw a season-high four touchdown passes and the Buckeyes tuned up with a 54-10 victory at Northwestern (3-8, 1-6).

The 54 points were the most for Ohio State since a 72-0 victory over Pittsburgh on Sept. 21, 1996, and the defense played a major role in that.

The Buckeyes converted four turnovers and a blocked punt into touchdowns en route to a 33-10 halftime lead and their 18th consecutive victory — the nation's longest winning streak.



Northwestern running back Tyrell Sutton is stopped by Ohio State's Malcolm Jenkins, left, David Patterson, center, and James Laurinaitis during Saturday's game in Evanston, Ill.

Smith threw for 185 yards while completing 12-of-19 with one interception. Antonio Pittman ran for 80 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries, and freshman Chris Wells ran for a season-high

99 and a touchdown. Brian Hartline caught two touchdown passes.

Meanwhile, in Bloomington, Ind., Steve Breaston scored on an 83-yard punt return and a 62-yard reception and

Mike Hart added a touchdown run to lead the Wolverines to a 34-3 rout of Indiana (5-6, 3-4).

Michigan has won 15 of its last 16 regular-season games. The only blip is a

not-so-easily forgotten 25-21 loss to the Buckeyes last year.

Unlike last week against Ball State, the Wolverines never gave their opponent a chance.

The offense easily picked apart Indiana's defense. Chad Henne was 11-of-15 for 159 yards and two touchdown passes to support Michigan's typically stout defense. The Wolverines allowed only 131 total yards, including 26 on the ground.

**Wisconsin 24, Iowa 21:** Tyler Donovan stepped in for an injured John Stocco (shoulder) and threw for 228 yards and two touchdowns as No. 16 Wisconsin won at Iowa.

Luke Swan added 113 yards receiving and a TD for Wisconsin (10-1, 7-1 Big Ten), which ended a four-game losing streak against Iowa (6-5, 2-5) and reached 10 regular-season wins for just the second time.

**West Virginia 42, Cincinnati 24:** Pat White ran for two touchdowns and threw another and Steve Slaton added two scoring runs as No. 10 West Virginia bounced back from its first loss by turning back visiting Cincinnati (5-5, 2-3 Big East).

West Virginia (8-1, 3-1) overcame a sluggish start and scored five of its six TDs on drives of five plays or less.

Slaton, who fumbled twice after injuring his elbow and wrist in a Nov. 2 loss at Louisville, held onto the ball against the Bearcats. He ran for 148 yards on just 12 carries and had TD runs of 65 and 2 yards.

## Kansas State knocks Texas from chase

Arizona ends California dreaming

Associated Press

Texas lost its young star — and a whole lot more.

Quarterback Colt McCoy was hurt scoring a touchdown on the fourth-ranked Longhorns' opening drive, and his replacement, freshman Jevan Snead, struggled in a 45-42 loss at Kansas State on Saturday night that knocked the defending national champions out of the title hunt.

The Longhorns (9-2, 6-1 Big 12) got within a field goal on Chris Ogbonnaya's 1-yard touchdown run with 1:36 to go. But Jordy Nelson recovered the ensuing on-side kick and then caught a 6-yard pass for a first down that sealed the Wildcats' win.

Josh Freeman took a knee, and purple-clad fans streamed onto the field to celebrate their biggest win in a few years.

Freeman threw for 263 yards and three scores and ran for another TD for Kansas State (7-4, 4-3), which scored three touchdowns over a 3:06 span in the third quarter on its way to breaking a six-game losing streak

against ranked opponents.

Texas, fifth in last week's BCS standings, had hoped to move up when No. 15 Rutgers stunned No. 3 Louisville 28-25 on Thursday.

**Nebraska 28, Texas A&M 27:** Zac Taylor threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Maurice Purify with 21 seconds left as Nebraska clinched a berth in the Big 12 championship game with a wild win at No. 24 Texas A&M.

The Aggies (8-3, 4-3 Big 12) trailed 21-10 at halftime, but Jorvorskie Lane's 1-yard touchdown run with 7:28 left capped an A&M comeback. The Aggies got a 2-point conversion to make it 27-21 and Mark Dodge intercepted a pass by Taylor with 2:50 remaining, seemingly sealing the biggest victory of coach Dennis Franchione's four-year tenure.

But Layne Neumann's 42-yard field goal attempt was blocked and Nebraska (8-3, 5-2) regained possession at its 24 with 1:57 to go.

**Oklahoma 34, Texas Tech 24:** Paul Thompson threw for a career-high 309 yards and two touchdowns and freshman Chris Brown scored twice in the fourth quarter as No. 17 Oklahoma (8-2,

5-1 Big 12) rallied to beat visiting Texas Tech (6-5, 3-4).

With their top two tailbacks injured, the Sooners' 15-game streak with a 100-yard rusher — the longest in the nation — was snapped. But Brown still gave them plenty of pop on the ground.

**Arizona 24, California 20:** Antoine Cason returned an interception 39 yards for a touchdown as Arizona upset visiting Cal and knocked the Bears out of national title contention.

The Wildcats (5-5, 3-4 Pac-10) rallied from a 17-3 third quarter deficit.

DeSean Jackson returned a punt 95 yards for a touchdown and caught a 62-yard touchdown pass for California (8-2, 6-1). Marshawn Lynch rushed for 102 yards for the Golden Bears, who face No. 7 Southern California next week in Los Angeles.

With the game tied at 17 early in the fourth quarter, Nate Longshore threw a sideline pass for fullback Byron Storer, but Cason stepped in front of the receiver, intercepted the ball and raced untouched down the sideline to give Arizona its first lead of the game. Longshore threw

three interceptions.

**Notre Dame 39, Air Force 17:** Efficient and effective just like Brady Quinn envisioned, ninth-ranked Notre Dame manhandled Air Force for its eighth consecutive road win.

The Irish (9-1), who secured back-to-back nine-win seasons for the first time in 13 years, struck early and dispatched the Falcons (4-5), who never could capitalize on their ball-control option offense that kept Quinn & Co. on the sideline for much of the game.

Quinn threw for 207 yards and four touchdowns, Darius Walker rushed for 153 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries and Jeff Samardzija caught six passes for 106 yards and a touchdown.

**Boise St. 23, San Jose St. 20:** Boise State (10-0, 6-0 WAC) barely had enough time and poise to keep its unbeaten season and BCS hopes alive.

Jared Zabransky shook off three frustrating quarters to lead two scoring drives in the final minutes, and Anthony Montgomery kicked his third field goal from 37 yards as time expired in No. 14 Boise State's victory at San Jose State (6-3, 3-2).



JOHN MILLER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Henry, right, of Arizona celebrates his touchdown with Syndric Steptoe during the third quarter in Saturday's win against Cal.

## Wake Forest buries FSU, 30-0

Associated Press

Kevin Patterson scored on a 48-yard interception return and No. 18 Wake Forest beat Florida State 30-0 on Saturday night to become the first team to shut out the Seminoles at Doak Campbell Stadium in Bobby Bowden's 31 seasons as coach.

The resurgent Demon Deacons (5-1, Atlantic Coast Conference) improved to 9-1 for the first time in school history with their first win over Florida State in 23 years. Wake Forest last won in Tallahassee in 1959.

The struggling Seminoles (5-5, 3-5), meanwhile, hit a new low. Florida State hadn't been shut out in 232 games, dating back to the 1988 opener at Miami.

Wake Forest can earn a spot in next month's conference championship game with wins over Virginia Tech and Maryland in its final two games while Florida State needs a win over either Western Michigan or Florida to be bowl eligible.

**Georgia Tech 7, North Carolina 0:** Even on a bad day, Georgia Tech was good enough to clinch a spot in the ACC championship game.

Tashard Choice ran for 119 yards and a touchdown to help the No. 19 Yellow Jackets beat North Carolina, wrapping up the Coastal Division title despite a subpar performance that still was too much for the woeful Tar Heels (1-9, 0-6 ACC) in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Choice, who had 32 carries, also had 32 yards receiving on a sluggish offensive day for the Yellow Jackets (8-2, 6-1), who will face the Atlantic Division winner in the league's second title game in Jacksonville, Fla., on Dec. 2.

"To get a chance, an opportunity, to play in the ACC championship, that's everything we've worked for," Choice said. "I think the whole team is ecstatic, but on the other side we're pretty upset with how we played today. We feel like we should've come out and played better."

**Virginia Tech 23, Kent State 0:** Brandon Pace kicked three field goals to set a school record with 19 consecutive successful attempts and No. 20 Virginia Tech blanked visiting Kent State (5-5).

Branden Ore added a 6-yard touchdown run in the third quarter and Noland Burchette returned a fumble caused by a sack 15 yards for a fourth-quarter touchdown for the Hokies (8-2), who gained only 214 yards, but allowed the visiting Golden Flashes 182.

**Maryland 14, Miami 13:** Bryan Pata would have been proud.

Playing five days after the shooting death of their senior leader, the emotionally drained Hurricanes played valiantly before succumbing to No. 23 Maryland in College Park, Md.

Miami fell behind 14-0 early in the second quarter, then fought back behind a determined defense and the prowess of backup quarterback Kirby Freeman, making his first career start in place of injured starter Kyle Wright.


But Maryland (8-2, 5-1 ACC) held on for its fifth consecutive victory despite making only six first downs.

It was the third consecutive loss for Miami (5-5, 2-4), all to ranked opponents. The Hurricanes haven't lost three in a row since 1999.

**Boston College 28, Duke 7:** L.V. Whitworth and Andre Callender each rushed for more than 100 yards and a touchdown and Boston College took charge after a close first half to beat Duke (0-10, 0-6 ACC) and retain a realistic shot at the ACC title.

The 22nd-ranked Eagles (8-2, 4-2) remained one game behind Maryland in the Atlantic Division going into their meeting next Saturday in Boston. Wake Forest, which played Saturday night, started the day tied with Maryland for the division lead.

The winners of each division meet Dec. 2 in Jacksonville for the ACC championship.



### HIGH SCHOOL TIP-OFF CLASSIC

## Thompson-Boling Arena

**Knoxville high school basketball teams will be showcased November 13-14 at Thompson Boling Arena in the St. Mary's High School Tip-Off Classic.**

**Tip-Off Classic Playing Schedule:**  
**(Girls) Mon., November 13, 2006**  
**(Boys) Tues., November 14, 2006**  
**Game Time 5:30 pm**  
**Ticket Good For One Night Only**

**Team Schedules Apply to Monday and Tuesday**

**T.S.D. vs. Gibbs**  
**C.A.K. vs. Halls**  
**Carter vs. Powell**  
**Farragut vs. Austin-East**  
**• • • Halftime • • •**  
**Karns vs. Fulton**  
**Webb vs. Bearden**  
**Catholic vs. West**  
**Central vs. South-Doyle**

**Tickets are \$10.00**

**Halftime activities include free throw, three point shooting and slam dunk contest.**

**Knoxville NEWS SENTINEL**  
KnoxNews.com

# C-N not ready to stop after dropping Tusculum

BY LARUE COOK  
Special to the News Sentinel

## SAC STANDINGS

Team	SAC	Overall
Newberry	6-1	10-1
Wingate	5-2	7-3
Presbyterian	5-2	7-4
Carson-Newman	4-3	8-3
Tusculum	3-4	6-5
Catawba	3-4	6-4
Mars Hill	1-6	4-7
Lenoir-Rhyne	1-6	3-8

**Saturday's results**  
**Carson-Newman 23, Tusculum 3**  
Presbyterian 10, Newberry 0  
Wingate 37, Mars Hill 14  
Catawba 32, Lenoir-Rhyne 24

Like his coach, quarterback Alex Rouse, who finished 6-of-10 passing for 147 yards and two touchdowns, would be interested to see what the Eagles

could accomplish with their newly found confidence.

"We've played our best football these last two weeks, and I wish we could've made it because I think we would've gone a long way," said Rouse, a former Maryville High School quarterback.

The Eagles lose just two senior starters on offense, both of them linemen.

Tusculum coach Frankie DeBusk lost "The Battle of US III" for the third consecutive time. The Pioneers were held to 140 yards of total offense and converted just one of their 13 third-down attempts.

"We didn't play hard at all. We were really stale in the first half and just didn't seem ready," DeBusk said. "Carson-Newman had a great game plan and executed it well. They are obviously a better football team than us."

For the second week in a row, Sparks went solely with Rouse in the first half,

leaving co-starter Alex Good on the sideline. The sophomore responded with a 35-yard touchdown pass to Otis Miller with 7 minutes, 13 seconds to play in the first quarter.

Rouse found freshman Reggie Hubbard from 53 yards out four minutes into the second quarter, putting C-N on top 21-0.

"The coaches have given me a little more freedom in the passing game," said Rouse, who has thrown for four scores and more than 300 yards in the past two outings. "I think that's from having a little more confidence in me."

Against Division II's top rushing defense, C-N rolled up 242 yards on the ground. Freshman Buck Wakefield ran 18 times for 111 yards and scored on a 5-yard run with 38 seconds to play in the first quarter.

Neither offense could move the ball in the second half, though, due mostly to wet conditions brought on by

heavy rains at halftime.

C-N fumbled the ball four times in the half, and Good came on in place of Rouse, throwing an interception in the fourth quarter.

But the Pioneers were not able to capitalize. Scrambling to find some momentum, DeBusk decided to fake a punt twice in his own end zone.

Punter John Gregory's first fake attempt fell incomplete, but the referees called pass interference on C-N for what would have been a Pioneers first down. There was an ineligible man downfield, however, and the penalties offset.

DeBusk opted to try it yet again, this time with a direct snap to upback Patrick King. Eric Rice, who led the Eagles' defense with eight tackles and a sack, stopped the play in the end zone for a safety.

Tusculum's lone score came on a 24-yard field goal by senior Glenn Black.

# Game ball for homebound Paterno

Associated Press

Levi Brown clutched the football tightly against his chest. There was a special handoff he needed to make after Penn State's 47-0 rout of Temple.

"The game ball is going to go to Coach Paterno," the left tackle said. "Wherever he's at, I'm going to take it to him."

With Joe Paterno watching from home, missing his first game in nearly three decades, Penn State (7-4) overwhelmed the Owls. Tony Hunt had a career day with 167 yards rushing and four touchdowns, Derrick Williams scored on a 75-yard punt return and the Nittany Lions held Temple (1-10) to two first downs.

The 79-year-old Paterno, recovering from left leg surgery, missed a game for just the second time in his 41 years as Penn State coach. He watched from home a day after being released from Mount Nittany Medical Center, handing the reins to his assistant coaches Saturday.

He did give his squad a pep talk over a speakerphone, though.

"What really hit home is when he said, 'Good luck guys, I love you,'" star linebacker Paul Posluszny said. "Even though he wasn't here, he was definitely with us in spirit."

**Purdue 42, Illinois 31:** Quarterback Curtis Painter ran for two TDs and threw for another as Purdue (7-4, 6-3 Big Ten) rallied at mistake-prone Illinois (2-9, 1-6).

**Minnesota 31, Michigan St. 18:** Bryan Cupito became Minnesota's all-time leading passer and threw two second-half touchdowns to help the Golden Gophers (5-6, 2-5 Big Ten) pull away at Michigan State (4-7, 1-6).

**Clemson 20, North Carolina St. 14:** C.J. Spiller ran for a career-high 154 yards and a touchdown and Jad Dean kicked the go-ahead fourth-quarter field goal as Clemson (8-3, 5-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) beat visiting North Carolina State (3-7, 2-5) to break a two-game losing streak.

**Connecticut 46, Pittsburgh 45:** D.J. Hernandez escaped a furious rush and scrambled into the end zone for a 2-point conversion in the second overtime and UConn (4-5, 1-3) stunned visiting Pittsburgh (6-4, 2-3).

**South Florida 27, Syracuse 10:** Matt Grothe threw for a school-record 364 yards and two touchdowns leading South Florida (7-3, 3-2 Big East) to a rout of visiting Syracuse (3-7, 0-5), which has lost five straight and has yet to win a Big East game under second-year coach Greg Robinson.

**Southern Miss 31, Tulane 3:** Damion Fletcher rushed for 136 yards and two touchdowns as Southern Mississippi (6-4, 4-2 Conference USA) won at Tulane (3-7, 1-5). The Green Wave played without leading rusher Matt Forte (knee) quarterback Lester Ricard was benched af-

ter throwing three incompletions and an interception in his first four attempts.

**Houston 37, SMU 27:** Anthony Aldridge ran for a career-high 225 yards and scored two TDs to lead Houston (8-3, 6-1 C-USA) at Southern Methodist (5-5, 3-3).

**East Carolina 33, Marshall 20:** James Pinkney passed for more than 200 yards for the 22nd time in his career and East Carolina's defense allowed only 35 rushing yards as the Pirates (6-4, 5-2 C-USA) beat visiting Marshall (4-6, 3-3).

Marshall running back Ahmad Bradshaw, C-USA's leading rusher, was held to a season-low 26 yards on 10 carries, though he did score a pair of touchdowns on short runs.

**Navy 49, E. Michigan 21:** Kaiponoa Kaheaku-Enhada scored four touchdowns and threw two more to lead Navy (7-3) over Eastern Michigan (1-9) in Detroit.

**Colorado 33, Iowa State 16:** Bernard Jackson threw two touchdown passes and ran for another as Colorado (2-9, 2-5 Big 12) rolled past visiting Iowa State (3-8, 0-7).

**Oklahoma State 66, Baylor 24:** Keith Toston rushed for 92 yards and two touchdowns and Oklahoma State (6-4, 3-3 Big 12 Conference) capitalized on six Baylor (4-7, 3-4) turnovers in Still-

water, Okla.

**Utah 35, Colorado St. 22:** Brett Ratliff passed for 296 yards and two touchdowns and Utah (6-4, 4-2 Mountain West) became bowl eligible by beating visiting Colorado State (4-6, 1-5).

**TCU 27, New Mexico 21:** Defensive end Tommy Blake returned a fumble 20 yards for a TD and Brian Bonner's late interception helped TCU (7-2, 3-2 MWC) win at New Mexico (5-5, 3-3).

**Fresno St. 23, New Mexico St. 18:** Dwayne Wright rushed for 121 yards and two touchdowns as Fresno State (2-7, 2-3 Western Athletic Conference) ended a seven-game losing streak, beating visiting New Mexico State (2-8, 0-6).

**UCLA 25, Oregon St. 7:** Marcus Everett caught a 45-yard pass from Patrick Cowan for the go-ahead touchdown in the third quarter, helping UCLA (5-5, 3-4 Pac-10) defeat visiting Oregon State (6-4, 4-3) and keep its bowl hopes alive.



CAROLYN KASTER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Penn State defenders Paul Posluszny, top, and Sean Lee take down Temple running back Tim Brown in Saturday's game at State College, Pa.

# Averett outscores Maryville, 58-44

Staff and wire reports

Averett solidified its share of the USA South Conference title Saturday, beating Maryville College 58-44 in Danville, Va.

In their final home games, four Cougars (7-3, 6-1 USA South) had standout games, led by Todd Parsons throwing for 361 yards and three touchdowns. Parsons' passing yards set a school record, eclipsed the previous mark of 347 by Scott Swann on Oct. 9, 2004 at Methodist.

Kyle Wilson rushed for 120 yards and a touchdown. He also had 76 receiving yards.

Averett struck early, jumping out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter.

Maryville (5-5, 4-3) fumbled the opening kickoff and the Cougars recovered on the Scots' 30-yard line. On the first play from scrimmage, Shan Fairbanks connected with Jeff Hughley for a 7-0 lead just 16 seconds into the contest. After holding Maryville to a three-and-out, Averett upped its lead to 14-0 on a 65-yard run by Wilson with 8:51 left in the first quarter.

Maryville answered in the second quarter with a pair of scores, a 2-yard run by Rommel Hightower and a 90-yard punt return for a touchdown by Dustin Locke. However, the Scots failed to convert on one of the two point-after attempts and trailed 14-13.

In the third quarter, Averett came out strong and outscored the Scots 27-7 to take control.

Maryville's Justin Price threw for 188 yards. J.R. Geld led the defensive effort with 12 tackles.

**Central Florida 26, Memphis 24:** Steven Moffett threw for 319 yards and two touchdowns, and Michael Torres kicked a trio of second-half field goals to lead Central Florida at Memphis.

Torres kicked the game-winning 18-yard field goal with just over three minutes remaining as the Golden Knights (3-7, 2-4 Conference USA) snapped a four-game losing streak.

Memphis (1-9, 0-6) moved down the field after Torres' kick gave the Golden Knights the lead. But the drive stalled at the Central Florida 35 as Memphis failed to convert a fourth-and-7 situation, sending the Tigers to their eight consecutive loss.

Memphis remains in the East Division cellar and is the only team winless in USA Conference play.

**Eastern Kentucky 31, UT Martin 28:** Taylor Long's career-best 39-yard field goal with one second left lifted the Colonels (5-5, 4-3 Ohio Valley Conference) over the eighth-ranked Skyhawks.

The loss broke UT Martin's eight-game winning streak and kept the Skyhawks (8-2, 5-1) from clinching at least a share of its first OVC championship with Eastern Illinois.

The Skyhawks can still claim a piece of the conference title by beating Murray State in their regular-season finale next week.

For the Skyhawks, Don Chapman ran for 171 yards and two touchdowns, becoming just the second player in school history to post three consecutive 1,000-yard seasons.

**Eastern Illinois 38, Tennessee Tech 14:** Cole Stinson threw for 275 yards and three touchdowns for Eastern Illinois (7-4, 6-1 OVC) at Tennessee Tech (3-7, 3-4).

**Tennessee St. 31, SE Missouri 0:** Javarris Williams ran for two first half touchdowns and the Tigers beat the Redhawks (4-6, 2-5) in Nashville.

Tennessee State (6-4, 5-1) played for the second consecutive game without starting quarterback Antonio Heffner, who hurt his left shoulder two weeks ago against Samford.

**Wofford 55, Chattanooga 0:** Josh Collier threw for a touchdown and rushed for two others to lead the Terriers (6-4, 5-2 Southern Conference) against the visiting Mocs (3-8, 2-5).

**Austin Peay 23, Morehead St. 21:** Chris Fletcher ran for 197 yards and three touchdowns to lead Austin Peay on the road.

Fletcher scored on runs of 45, 62 and 1 yards as the Governors (3-7) beat the Eagles (2-9) for the first time since 1996.

**Middle Tennessee 38, Arkansas St. 10:** Bradley Robinson returned an interception 88 yards for a score as Middle Tennessee State (7-3, 6-0 Sun Belt) stayed in the running for the Sun Belt Conference championship with a win at Arkansas State (5-5, 3-2).

Robinson's play, on the first possession of the second half with the Blue Raiders leading 10-3, ended a potential game-tying Indian drive and turned the game around.

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