**November 26, 2006** 

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**TENNESSEE 17, KENTUCKY 12** 

# Streak lives, barely



MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee wide receiver Robert Meachem is stopped by a Kentucky defender after making a catch in Saturday's game at Neyland Stadium. The Vols won 17-12.

# Coker's TD, defense stops Kentucky

**BY MIKE STRANGE** 

The Pride of the Southland Band's halftime show Saturday offered suggestions on what Tennessee and its fans might want for the 12 days of Christmas.

The obvious gifts included an appealing bowl trip, a raise for David Cutcliffe and a Super Bowl for Peyton Manning.

Two more items, however, would soon be added to the wish list and they required immediate delivery:

A late go-ahead touchdown drive and then a game-winning defensive stop.

The 19th-ranked Vols needed both to hold off 20-point underdog Kentucky, 17-12, in the regular-season finale before a crowd of 104,382 at Nevland Stadium.

LaMarcus Coker's 1-yard, fourth-down dive into the end zone put Tennessee up 17-12 with The UT defense then had to come up with

two fourth-down stops to extend the Vols' winning streak over Kentucky to 22 years, the second-longest domination in college foot-"It's great to win when you don't play par-

ticularly well," said UT coach Phillip Fulmer. The Vols (9-3, 5-3 SEC) will have to wait another week until they learn their fate in the

bowl lottery. Kentucky, which last beat Tennessee in 1984, had its chances Saturday.

The Wildcats (7-5, 4-4) led 12-10 at the half but came up empty on their only three second-half possessions.

Lones Seiber, a freshman and Central High School graduate, missed a 33-yard field on the last play of the third quarter, leaving the 12-

10 lead intact. After Tennessee's go-ahead score, the Wildcats drove to the UT 28 only to see Rafael Little thrown for a loss by Turk McBride on fourth-and-2.

Kentucky's defense almost came up with a huge play when Erik Ainge was sacked and fumbled near midfield. However, when Wildcats linebacker Brandon Thurman was unable to secure the ball, Tennessee lineman Eric Young made the recovery.

The Vols thus saved precious field position

See VOLS on VR5

# Only a prayer stops Meachem

season.

On Robert Meachem's recordsetting day, his exit was as memorable as his performance.



As Meachem prepared to leave Neyland Stadium, UT fans chanted, 'One more year.' They were both loud and

passionate. But his decision will be made quietly and privately. Sometimes

between now and early January, Meachem will decide whether to return for his senior season at UT or go pro.

"It will be my decision," he emphasized.

But he won't make it without input from his family, including his parents, grandparents, and even his 1½-year-old daughter, he said.

Don't ask me what a 1½-year-old might add? Is "pro" easier to say than "Vols?"

"We'll probably all go out to dinner one day," he said about the consultation phase of the decisionmaking process.

Ultimately, the decision will be made without family or food.

"I'll go through a week of fasting and let God handle everything," Meachem said. "Whatever He tells me to do, I will do."

Now that Meachem has brought

# ON GOVOLSXTRA.COM

■ Slideshow of Tennessee-Kentucky

Audio of Robert Meachem, Erik Ainge, Marvin Mitchell, Turk McBride, Dan Brooks and Jonathan Wade.

God into it, you can imagine the prayers emanating from the Big Orange faithful. They know the difference he has made this season and more importantly, the difference he could make next

They also know the difference he made in Saturday's unexpectedly difficult 17-12 victory against Kentucky.

Meachem scored UT's first touchdown on a 15-yard pass from Erik Ainge. He also made UT's last catch — and don't underestimate the significance of it. His 15-yard reception for a first down meant UT could run out the clock without facing another threat from a Kentucky offense that piled up 410 yards and 24 first downs.

Meachem, who had six catches 116 yards, finished the regular season with 1,265 receiving yards, a single-season school record. His 67 catches are the fourth-highest in school history.

Contrast that to last year when

See ADAMS on VR5

# **SCOREBOARD**

# **TOP 25**

No. 3 Southern Cal 44, No. 6 Notre Dame 24 No. 4 Florida 21. Florida State 14 South Florida 24, No. 7 West Virginia 19

No. 8 Louisville 48, Pittsburgh 24

No. 12 Boise State 38, Nevada 7

No. 13 Oklahoma 27, Oklahoma St. 21 No. 15 Rutgers 38, Syracuse 7

Georgia 15, No. 16 Georgia Tech 12

No. 17 Virginia Tech 17, Virginia O

No. 19 Tennessee 17, Kentucky 12

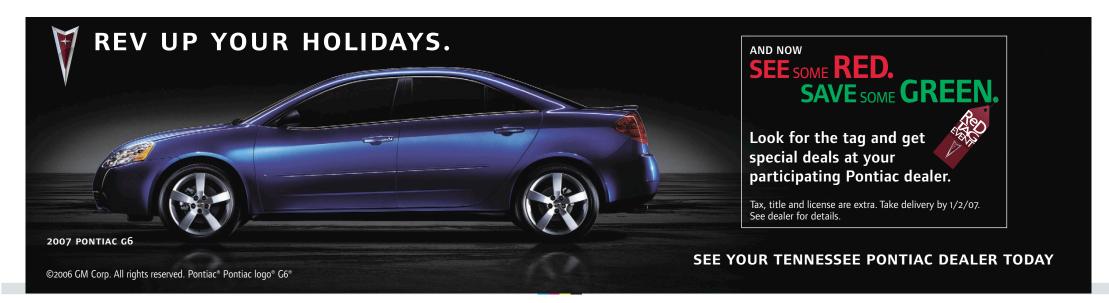
No. 20 Wake Forest 38, Maryland 24

No. 21 BYU 33, Utah 31 South Carolina 31, No. 25 Clemson 28

SEC

Mississippi 20, Mississippi State 17

No. 25 Hawaii vs. Purdue, late



subscribers blog throughout the game with Josh Ward:

"Hey everyone. Getting close to the last regular season kickoff. Should be pretty high scoring. Hopefully they will make it exciting for

Josh Ward 12:11 p.m.

"Foster looked awful on that kickoff return. He really needs to learn to run north and south even when he's at tailback." **Taylor** 1:30 p.m.

"I'm afraid that we are in for a tough game. Little looks strong and UT can't afford to be kicking (and missing) FGs." 1:45 p.m.

"Missed extra point by Kentucky. Wonder if Seiber is nervous coming back home to Knoxville? Josh Ward 1:48 p.m.

"Well, ESPN Game Plan let me down after the score was 10-9. Obviously KY got a field goal before the half. We are playing poorly, IMO. Go Vols! SAVol" SAVol 2:11 p.m.

"Everyone blamed Sanders for our bad season last year, but now that he has had a good year with a not so good team could it have been the head coach? I believe so!!" 2:17 p.m.

"Our offensive play calling looks like we are paying a tribute to Randy Sanders. This is the worst defense in the nation. Open up the attack. Quit throwing fades and hit the receivers in the middle of the field."

ambrozia 2:38 p.m.

Taylor 2:47 p.m.

"This is getting very scary. UT looks very flat and unless they wake up, they'll get beaten. IMO, losing to UK would be worse than losing to Vandy. UT will step up and score some points. UK can't make a FG thank goodness.'

"Is anyone else bothered by the fact we only have 10 points against a defense that gave up 40 against Louisiana Monroe? 10ECVOL 2:56 p.m.

"Swain must have forgotten to wipe the butter off of his hands after Thanksgiving.' 10ECVOL 3:13 p.m.

"It seems to me that it sure doesn't feel like we won this game, but I will take it over a loss.' 10ECVOL 3:43 p.m.

# STATISTICS

SIAHSI	IL	2							
TENNESS	EE	IND	IV	IDU	AL				
<b>RUSHING</b>									
LaMarcus Coker Montario Harde Jayson Swain Arian Foster Erik Ainge <b>Totals</b>			No 22 7 1 1 3 3	<b>Gain</b> 94 30 6 0 130	Loss 4 3 0 2 25 34	Net 90 27 6 -2 -25 <b>96</b>	10 0 0 0 0	<b>Lg</b> 16 15 6 0 16	4.1 3.9 6.0 -2.0 -8.3 <b>2.8</b>
<b>PASSING</b>									
Erik Ainge Totals				3	<b>3-19-0</b> <b>3-19-0</b>	Yds 240 <b>240</b>	1	33 <b>33</b>	<b>Sack</b> 3 <b>3</b>
<b>RECEIVIN</b>	G								
Robert Meacher LaMarcus Coker Chris Brown Bret Smith Jayson Swain Brad Cottam David Holbert Totals						No. 6 4 3 2 2 1 1	Yds 116 51 25 19 15 9 5	10 0 0 0 0 0 0	33 17 12 10 9 9 5 33
<b>PUNTING</b>									
Britton Colquitt <b>Totals</b>				No. 2 <b>2</b>	<b>Yds</b> 88 <b>88</b>	<b>Avg</b> 44.0 <b>44.0</b>	<b>Long</b> 46 <b>46</b>	In20 1 1	<b>TB</b> 1 <b>1</b>
<b>ALL RETU</b>	IRN	IS							
Lucas Taylor Arian Foster <b>Totals</b>	No 0 0 0	Pt Yds 0 0 0	unts Lg () () ()	N	Kickof lo Yds 1 16 2 20 3 30	<b>Lg</b> 16 19	No C C	0 0	pt
<b>PLACEKIO</b>	KI	NG							
Field goals James Wilhoit				1s	t 07:	28 24	1 yds	Goo	d

Field goals James Wilhoit TEAM				1st 2nd		07:28 05:29		-			
Kickoffs						.,					_
James Wilhoit					<b>4</b>	<b>Y</b> 0	<b>ls</b> 51	TE 3		<b>OB</b>	<b>Avg</b> 62.8
<b>FUMBLES</b>	)										
Montario Harde	sty 1-	O; E	rik	Ainge 1-0	0;	Lucas	Tay	ylor 1	-1.		
<b>DEFENSE</b>											
Player	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL/Yds	F	FFR-Yd	Int	BUp	Blk	Sack	QBH
Rico McCoy	6	3	9		1			1			
Jonathan Hefney	7	1	8								
Turk McBride	6	2	8	1.0-1							2
Rvan Karl	5	2	7	10-2							1

DELEUSE											
Player	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL/Yds	FFI	R-Yd	Int	BUp	Blk	Sack	QBH
Rico McCoy	6	3	9		1			1			
Jonathan Hefney	7	1	8								
Turk McBride	6	2	8	1.0-1							2
Ryan Karl	5	2	7	1.0-2							1
Demetrice Morley	y 6		6	1.0-2				1			
Jonathan Wade	5	1	6					2			
Marvin Mitchell	4	2	6	1.0-1							
Ellix Wilson	4		4								
Antwan Stewart	3		3								
Demonte' Bolden	2	1	3	1.0-7					.1.0	0/7	
Xavier Mitchell		3	3					1			
Robert Ayers	2		2								
Antonio Gaines	2		2								
Wes Brown	1	1	2								
James Wilhoit	1		1								
Ja'Kouri Williams	1		1								
Walter Fisher		1	1								
Matt McGlothlin		1	1								

SCORE BY QUARTERS KENTUCKY TENNESSEE	0	12	0	0-12
	10	0	0	7-17

TEAM		
	UK	UT
FIRST DOWNS	24	23
Rushing	8	9
Passing	14	13
Penalty	2	1
NET YARDS RUSHING	128	96
Rushing Attempts	30	34
Average Per Rush	4.3	2.8
Yards Gained Rushing	140	130
Yards Lost Rushing	12	34
NET YARDS PASSING	282	240
Completions-Attempts-Int	26-39-0	19-33-0
Average Per Attempt	7.2	7.3
Average Per Completion	10.8	12.6
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	410	336
Total offense plays	69	67
Average Gain Per Play	5.9	5.0
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-0	3-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	3-28	4-35
PUNTS-YARDS	1-48	2-88
Average Yards Per Punt	48.0	44.0
Net Yards Per Punt	48.0	34.5
Inside 20	0	1
50+ Yards	0	0
Touchbacks	0	1
Fair catch	0	0
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-212	4-251
Average Yards Per Kickoff	53.0	62.8
Net Yards Per Kickoff	44.0	45.8
Touchbacks	0	3
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-(-1)-0	0-0-0
Average Per Return	-1.0	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-8-0	3-36-0
Average Per Return	8.0	12.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	30:28	29:32
1st Quarter	7:58	7:02
2nd Quarter	10:07	4:53
3rd Quarter	4:20	10:40
4th Quarter	8:03	6:57
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 14	7 of 14
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 3	2 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-5	3-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	3-20	1-7
PAT Kicks	0-1	2-2
Field Goals	2-3	1-2

KENTUCKY I	NDIV	<b>IDU</b> A	<b>\L</b>				
RUSHING							
Rafael Little Tony Dixon David Jones Andre' Woodson <b>Totals</b>	No 23 5 1 1 30	<b>Gain</b> 122 15 3 0 <b>140</b>	Loss 3 2 0 7 12	Net 119 13 3 -7 128	TD 0 0 0 0	43 10 3 0 43	Avg 5.2 2.6 3.0 -7.0 4.3
<b>PASSING</b>							
Andre' Woodson <b>Totals</b>		3	<b>mp-Int</b> 9-26-0 <b>39-26-0</b>	282	1	<b>Long</b> 41 <b>41</b>	Sac
RECEIVING							
Jacob Tamme Keenan Burton Rafael Little Dicky Lyons DeMoreo Ford Curtis Pulley Steve Johnson <b>Totals</b>				No. 7 6 5 3 2 2 1 26	Yds 120 42 21 60 17 15 7 282	TD 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1	14 9 4 1
<b>PUNTING</b>							
Tim Masthay <b>Totals</b>		No. 1 1	<b>Yds</b> 48 <b>48</b>	<b>Avg</b> 48.0 <b>48.0</b>	<b>Long</b> 48 <b>48</b>	In20 O 0	TB 0 0
<b>ALL RETURN</b>	IS						
Keenan Burton 0 Rafael Little 1 Totals 1	Punts Yds Lg O O -1 O -1 O	ı	0 (		No C C	0 0	pt L (
<b>PLACEKICKI</b>	NG						

2nd 10:04

No

4

00:18

06:26

Yds

212

2nd

3rd

21 yds

20 yds

33 yds

TB

0

Good

Good

Missed

OB

0 53.0

Ava

# **FUMBLES**

Rafael Little 1-0.

Jeremy Jarmon

**Field goals** 

Lones Seiber

Lones Seiber

Lones Seiber

**Kickoffs** 

**DEFENSE** 

Player	Sol	o Ast	Tot	TFL/Yds	FF	FR-Yd	Int	BUp	Blk	Sack	QBH
Wesley Woodyar	rd8	3	11	1.0-4	1						1
Roger Williams	6	1	7	1.0-3							1
Trevard Lindley	6		6					1			
Lamar Mills	4	1	5								
Myron Pryor	4		4								
Marcus McClinto	on4		4	1.0-2							
Johnny Williams	3	1	4								
Durrell White	3	1	4								
Braxton Kelley	2	2	4								
Karl Booker	3		3								
Paul Warford	2	1	3								
Jeremy Jarmon	2		2	1.0-10	1			1	. 1.	0/10	
E. J. Adams	1		1								
Dominic Lewis	1		1								
David Jones	1		1								
Corey Peters	1		1	1.0-9					. :	1.0/9	
A. J. Nance	1		1		1						
Ventrell Jenkins		1	1								1
Micah Johnson						1-0					
Curtis Pulley									1		

## **HOW THEY SCORED**

## **FIRST QUARTER**

## **TENNESSEE 3, KENTUCKY 0** UT - James Wilhoit 24-yard field goal, 7:28.

**Key plays** — Chris Brown 10 pass from Erik Ainge to UT 47; On third-and-1, David Holbert 5 pass from Ainge to UK 39; LaMarcus Coker 17 pass quick left from Ainge to UK 22; Montario Hardesty 15 run to UK 7.

**Drive** — 14 plays, 69 yards, 4:48.

## **TENNESSEE 10. KENTUCKY 0**

**UT —** Robert Meachem 15 pass from Ainge (Wilhoit kick), 2:46.

Key plays — LaMarcus Coker 10 run to UT

45; Coker 9 run to UK 46; Meachem 30 pass from Ainge down right side to UK 13. **Drive** — Six plays, 65 yards, 2:14.

## **SECOND QUARTER TENNESSEE 10, KENTUCKY 3**

UK - Lones Seiber 21-yard field goal, 10:04. **Key plays** — Jacob Tamme 12 pass from Andre Woodson to UK 48; Keenan Burton 14 pass from Woodson to UT 38; Rafael Little 7 run to UT 31; DeMoreo Ford 11 pass from Woodson to UT 20.

**Drive** — 16 plays, 88 yards, 7:29.

# **TENNESSEE 10, KENTUCKY 9**

UK - Little 5 pass from Woodson in right flat (kick failed), 3:22.

Key plays — UT's Demetrice Morley called for pass interference on play where he makes interception, 15 yards to UK 35; Little 43 run around left side to UT 13.

**Drive** — Five plays, 80 yards, 2:07.

## **KENTUCKY 12, TENNESSEE 10**

UK - Seiber 20-yard field goal, :18.

**Key plays** — UK's A.J. Nance forces Lucas Taylor fumble on kickoff return recovered by Micah Johnson at UT 19; Tamme 13 pass from Woodson to UT 6.

**Drive** — Five plays, 16 yards, 2:52.

## THIRD OUARTER

No scoring

## **FOURTH QUARTER TENNESSEE 17, KENTUCKY 12**

UT - Coker 1-yard dive on fourth-and-goal (Wilhoit kick), 14:02.

**Key plays** — Brad Cottam 9 pass from Ainge to UT 29; Meachem 33 pass down left side from Ainge to UK 27; Coker 14 screen from Ainge to UK 17; On fourth-and-1, Hardesty 2 run to UK 6; Meachem 8 pass from Ainge to UK 1.

**Drive** — 15 plays, 80 yards, 7:24.



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— Mike Hamilton, UT Men's Athletic Director



NEWS SENTINEL

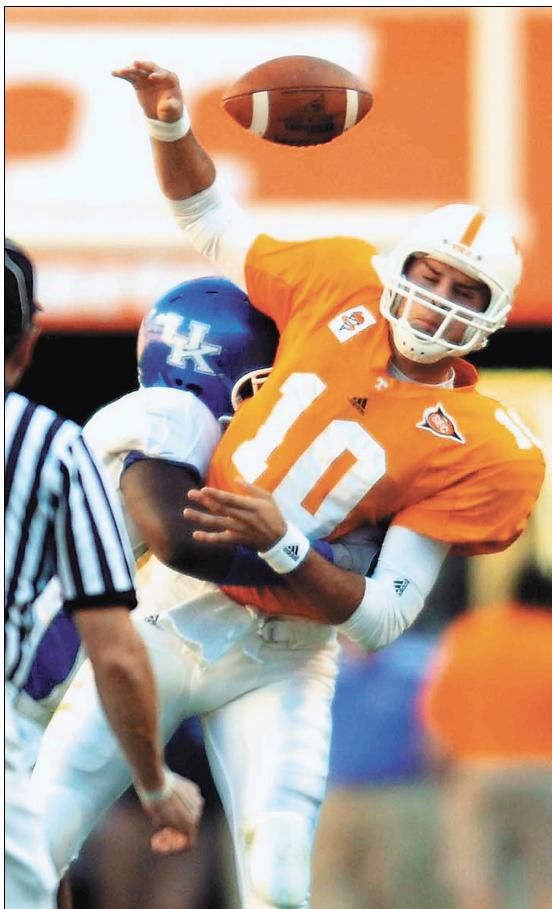
MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL **Tennessee's Robert Meachem makes a catch** in the end zone in front of Kentucky's Ashton Cobb on Saturday. Meachem's 15-yard touchdown catch gave the Vols a 10-0 lead in the first quarter.



AMY SMOTHERMAN-BURGESS/NEWS SENTINEL **Tennessee wide receiver Jayson Swain**, right, hugs coach Phillip Fulmer before running through the "T" Saturday at Neyland Stadium.



AMY SMOTHERMAN-BURGESS/NEWS SENTINEL **Tennessee wide receiver Robert Meachem**, right, hugs Kentucky quarterbacks coach Randy Sanders, UT's former offensive coordinator, after the Vols' 17-12 victory Saturday at Neyland Stadium.



AMY SMOTHERMAN-BURGESS/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee quarterback Erik Ainge fumbles while being hit by Kentucky defensive tackle Myron Pryor during the fourth quarter Saturday.



# WOODYARD

MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

Tennessee running back LaMarcus Coker dives for the eventual game-winning touchdown on fourth-and-goal against Kentucky defenders Wesley Woodyard, left, and Durrell White on Saturday.

# Offense had just enough

Few highlights against nation's worst defense; Ainge says Vols didn't execute

> **BY DREW EDWARDS** edwardsd@knews.com

Robert Meachem had the most succinct and the most accurate assessment of Tennessee's offense in a 17-12 victory over Kentucky on Saturday in Neyland Stadium.

Fresh off a six-catch, 116-yard performance to set UT's single-season record for receiving yards, the junior sat down behind the table in UT's postgame interview room and said two words.

"We won," Meachem said, when asked for

an opening statement. That's about the best thing you can say about

Tennessee's offense Saturday. "I ain't never heard of a frustrating win," fel-

low receiver Jayson Swain said. "It's not in the dictionary. We know we could have played a little bit better." Against the nation's worst defense, Tennessee

managed 336 yards of total offense.

They rushed for 96, although tailbacks LaMarcus Coker and Montario Hardesty combined to pick up 117 yards and a touchdown between them.

Quarterback Erik Ainge completed just 8 of 17 pass attempts in the first half and finished 19-of-33 for 240 yards.

UT's offensive line, among the nation's best in pass protection all season, allowed three sacks. Except for the outcome, what could go wrong for the Vols, it seems, did.

And it wasn't just one thing.

"It was something different every time," senior guard David Ligon said. "I gave up a sack on one drive that hurt us. But it was always something different. The good thing is, those are mistakes that were correctable."

Correctable, but strange.

UT was forced to punt just twice on Saturday. The Vols turned the ball over once.

And only scored 17 points.

UT receivers coach Trooper Taylor's response was much the same as his star pupil's

"As long as they only have 16 or less," Taylor said, "it doesn't bother me one bit."

After driving for a field goal and touchdown on its first two possessions, the Vols had a 71yard drive end at the Kentucky 19-yard line with a blocked field goal.

Lucas Taylor fumbled a kickoff after taking a brutal hit to start and end UT's only other drive of the first half before the first play from scrimmage.

After halftime, a sack on third-and-6 from the Kentucky 37 forced a punt.

At that point, the Vols trailed 12-10. But in what has become a trademark of this season, Tennessee rallied for its fourth game-winning drive in the final 15 minutes.

On that drive, the offense moved 80 vards in 15 plays, converting twice on third down and two more times on fourth down.

Hardesty went over the top for 2 yards on fourth-and-1 from the Kentucky 8, and Coker finished the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-goal.

It was UT's final score on a day when Swain said the Vols could have scored at will.

We felt like we could have scored every time we had the ball," he said. "But we didn't. We stopped ourselves, but they did a good job of helping us stop ourselves. That's what it's all about, execution. We didn't do that."

Even Tennessee's passing game, which has been among the SEC's leaders all season long,

Ainge rallied in the second half to complete 11 of 16 passes for 137 yards, but the passing game failed to click like it had at times earlier in the year.

The reason?

'We just weren't executing," Ainge said. "It wasn't necessarily anything they were doing on defense as it was my eyes being on the wrong spot or getting pressured and not standing in the pocket or not being on the same page with the receiver."

For the struggles, Saturday's game produced a few highlights.

Meachem passed Marcus Nash for the most receiving yards in a single season with his 30yard reception from Ainge on the Vols' second possession.

He capped off that drive with a stellar 15yard touchdown catch in the back of the end zone, where he barely got one foot in bounds.

After Saturday, it will be a little more than a month before the Vols play in a yet-to-be-determined bowl game. While Saturday's win wasn't the kind of of-

fensive clinic opponents have put on against Kentucky in other games this season, it was a That's all that mattered to UT offensive co-

ordinator David Cutcliffe.

He's got a brand new fire-pit to break in with his daughter Emily.

"All I'm going (Saturday night) is roast some marshmallows with my 6-year-old," Cutcliffe said, "and not worry about it tonight."

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

# In the end, UT's defense comes through

BY DAVE HOOKER

Saturday's game against Kentucky — much like the regular season — was all about survival for Tennessee's beleaguered defense.

"We didn't always play like Tennessee defense around here at times," senior middle linebacker Marvin Mitchell said after UT beat Kentucky, 17-12, Saturday, "but we made it through." Making it through meant stopping two potential game-winning, fourth-quarter drives by the Wildcats.

Victory was very much in doubt until Kentucky quarterback Andre Woodson's final pass fell incomplete with just over three minutes left in the game. Before that play, Kentucky looked like it might join

LSU and Florida among teams that beat UT with fourth-quarter surges in Neyland Stadium this sea-

"We lost a few games in the fourth quarter on the last drive," Mitchell said. "You have a lot of flashbacks. You want to get that stop." UT's other fourth-quarter stop came with less than

11 minutes remaining when senior Turk McBride slipped past Kentucky's offensive linemen and tackled tailback Rafael Little for a 1-yard loss on fourth-

"I had a good read that that guard was going to set outside," McBride said. "I kind of pinched inside. I really wasn't supposed to do that. I had a good read so I just did it. My instincts went ahead and I made

UT defensive tackles coach Dan Brooks didn't mince words when asked about McBride, who was moved to defensive tackle from defensive end when Justin Harrell suffered a season-ending arm injury in September. McBride played both positions against Kentucky because defensive end Antonio Reynolds is sidelined with a neck sprain.

"Turk McBride is one of the greatest young people that has ever played here in my 13 years," Brooks said. "He loves this program and this football team, ... He's just one of the most unselfish people we've ever had play for us."

Harrell's injury was just one of many that limited UT's defense in 2006. The Vols also lost starting cornerback Inky Johnson to a shoulder injury against Air Force on Sept. 9.

Against Kentucky, UT also played without linebacker Jerod Mayo, who has a sore right knee. Mitchell, who already was slowed with a sore shoulder, suffered a hip pointer in the first but played for the majority of the game.

"They reflect, I think, their coaches," UT coach Phillip Fulmer said. "Their coaches are tough guys, competitors and aren't going to get too high or too

low. I am really proud of what they've gotten done. "They've been tenacious. I guess that's a good word

Stopping Kentucky's offense was no small challenge — as it has often been in the past. Coming into the game, the Wildcats ranked 34th in the nation in scoring offense with 27.9 points per game and 40th in total offense with 369 yards per game. Kentucky's passing attack ranked 10th nationally with 273.3 yards

Against UT, the Wildcats got the yards but not the points. Kentucky rung up 410 total yards against the Vols but came up short when it mattered most, only scoring 12 points in five trips inside UT's 20-

"This is the SEC," UT cornerback Jonathan Wade said. "Everybody you play will make plays. You have to understand that going into a game. When they make their plays, you have to line up and try to make the next play."

Woodson accounted for most of Kentucky's yards. He was 26-of-39 for 282 yards passing and lived up to his pre-game 153.3 pass efficiency rating, which was 13th best in the NCAA.

"He's definitely a great athlete," McBride said. "He's the type of person I like to watch when we're not playing them.

UT's scrappy effort on defense came at a very good time for the Vols, whose offense struggled throughout the game.

"I thought they did a great job," junior quarterback Erik Ainge said of defense,

For the first time in a long time, UT's defense can take a breath. Its next contest, a bowl game, is

more than a month away and bowl practice won't start until December. "I'm definitely going to need this week off," Mitchell

said, "just to recover and get ready for the bowl game."

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# No sure route for UT's bowl destination

**BY DREW EDWARDS** 

Tennessee's bowl destination went from muddy to murky on Saturday.

With a 17-12 victory over Kentucky to close out the regular season, the 19th-ranked Vols (9-3, 5-3 SEC) are basically in play for every bowl game with

an SEC tie-in not included in the BCS. "There are a multitude of scenarios at this point," UT athletic director Mike Hamilton said Saturday. "We can be anywhere from the Capital One all the way through the equation. There are a lot of different permutations."

The BCS has just as much to do with the Vols' postseason destination as anything else.

The best scenario for the Vols would be if two SEC teams - likely LSU and the SEC champion (Florida or Arkansas) — land in the BCS.

LSU, which defeated Arkansas on Friday for its sixth consecutive victory, is eligible for an at-large BCS berth. West Virginia's loss to South Florida on Saturday likely knocked the Mountaineers out of a BCS slot.

The Big 12 lost its best shot at an atlarge bid after Texas A&M defeated Texas on Friday.

Boise State, Michigan and Notre Dame are likely BCS choices, leaving one at-large spot to be filled.

LSU's main competition for an atlarge berth would be Louisville, which could receive the Big East's automatic berth if West Virginia defeats Rutgers next week.

That could mean a trip to Florida for either the Capital One Bowl in Orlando to face Wisconsin or the Outback Bowl in Tampa against Penn State, Hamilton said.

Dick Christian, an Outback Bowl representative, said Saturday that two SEC teams in the BCS would put either Auburn or Tennessee in Tampa.

The Capital One Bowl has the first choice of SEC teams after the BCS fills

The Vols could be an attractive choice in the Capital One should Florida defeat Arkansas this Saturday in the SEC title game.

Auburn would be less attractive because the Tigers and Wisconsin faced off in Orlando last season.

Should only one SEC team get a BCS berth, the Vols could fall to the Chickfil-A Bowl, formerly the Peach Bowl, against the No. 2 pick from the ACC.

Georgia's victory over Georgia Tech

on Saturday makes them an attractive choice for that bowl, which is played in Atlanta.

'We're scouting Georgia as well," said Chick-fil-A representative Scott Poole. "A lot depends on how things

The Music City Bowl in Nashville has the next pick of SEC teams, followed by the Liberty Bowl in Memphis and the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La.

Hamilton said that Tennessee already has received between 2,500 and 3,500 online commitments for bowl tickets as of Monday. Applications went out via regular mail late last week, but those numbers aren't available yet because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Whatever happens, however, the Vols won't know for certain where they're headed until next Sunday.

"It's going be a deal where we're not going to know until literally the weekend of the championship game every year," Hamilton said. "We just need to be resolved to that.'

Dazed, Not Concussed: UT tailback LaMarcus Coker said he lost consciousness briefly after a helmet-tohelmet collision with Kentucky's Braxton Kelley late in the first quarter.

"I remember the hole was wide open," Coker said. "I hit one guy and another guy hit me from the side. Next thing I know, the trainer was on top of

"I just blacked out for a second, that's about it."

Coker returned and finished with 90 yards and a touchdown on 22 car-

No Low Kick: UT kicker James Wilhoit, who moved past John Becksvoort into second place all-time in career scoring, said his blocked field goal in the second quarter was the result of a good play by Kentucky's Curtis Pulley. "It wasn't a low kick," Wilhoit said.

"The most important thing is to get a good push from your line. A couple of (UT linemen) said they got knocked back a couple yards.

"(Pulley) did a good job of making a play, but we helped him a lot, too."

Remembering Inky: Senior cornerback Jonathan Wade wore a No. 29 jersey to honor Inky Johnson, the cornerback who suffered what could be a careerending injury to his shoulder against Air Force on Sept. 9.

Wade traditionally wears No. 4. Johnson wore No. 29.

"He's a good friend of mine," Wade said of Johnson. "For him to have an injury like that. I felt like it would be a good way to honor him."

Wade told Johnson of his intentions to wear his jersey earlier this week. Johnson had a piece of advice.

"Make sure I wasn't out there looking sloppy," Wade recalled with a smile.

Falling Foster: Former starting tailback Arian Foster has lost five yards on his last five carries. The sophomore had one carry for minus-2 yards against Kentucky, three carries for minus-4 yards against Vanderbilt and one carry for one yard against Arkansas.

**Injury Report:** Starting right guard Anthony Parker will have his left knee evaluated today. Receiver Lucas Taylor sustained a concussion on a kickoff return about 3 minutes before halftime.

Middle linebacker Marvin Mitchell missed time with a right hip pointer suffered in the first quarter, but returned and finished with six tackles.

Dave Hooker contributed to this

## **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

- 7 at Georgia, W 51-33 21 — Alabama, W 16-13 28 — at South Carolina, W 31-24
- 4 LSU, L 28-24
- 11 at Arkansas, L 31-14 18 — at Vanderbilt, W 39-10

# Saturday — Kentucky, W 17-12

and punted Kentucky back to its 13 with 8:02 left.

The Wildcats then drove downfield, reaching a first-andgoal at the Tennessee 6 and encouraging flashbacks of the Vols' loss to LSU three weeks

"I was having flashbacks to Vanderbilt last year," said UT lineman David Ligon.

Two short runs, a delay-ofgame penalty and a pass broken up by UT linebacker Rico McCoy left it fourth-and-goal at the 6 with 3:12 on the clock.

Kentucky had one last gasp to throw off the chains. Tennessee needed one last play, the one it couldn't make against

Quarterback Andre Woodson, pressured by UT's Marvin Mitchell, fired a pass in the end zone that fell incomplete with Jonathan Wade covering intended target Dicky Lyons Jr.

"That's the kind of stop we couldn't get last year and we couldn't get against LSU," said UT defensive coordinator John Chavis. "We got it today and I'm proud of 'em.'

The Vols still had to kill 3:04, which they did after a 15-yard completion from Ainge to Robert Meachem converted a

### **2007 SCHEDULE Date Opponent**

### September at California Southern Miss 15 at Florida 22 Northern Illinois **October** Georgia 13 at Mississippi State 20 at Alabama 27 South Carolina

Louisiana-Lafayette 10 Arkansas Vanderbilt

17 24 at Kentucky

from VR1

agreed wasn't its best dav.

yards to 336.

points against the nation's worst statistical defense. "It was a very unusual foot-

yard field goal when UT's

UT did convert its next pos-

al area and he made a great

that we had a chance to win,"

on what everyone involved

Which the Vols didn't always

ond quarter.

Tennessee got the job done

The Vols managed only 17

zled at the 7.

# November

"This was one of those games said Kentucky coach Rich

ball game," said offensive co-

promising opening drive fiz-

and a 10-0 lead "I just threw it up in his gener-

credit for getting the job done."

Kentucky outgained UT 410

James Wilhoit kicked a 24-

zone for a 15-yard touchdown

Brooks, "but give Tennessee

'We had just two punts, didn't turn it over and vet scored only 17 points. It was one of those games where you had to make the most of your oppor-

session when Ainge, about to be crunched by a blitzing defender, launched a pass that found Meachem in the end

"I trust Meach," Ainge said.

Seiber's 20-yard field goal and Kentucky dominated the sec-

ordinator David Cutcliffe.

Tennessee's Demetrice Morley, bottom, wraps up Kentucky wide receiver Dicky Lyons during the second half of Saturday's game at Nevland Stadium.

field goal, then Woodson's 5yard TD pass to Little. Seiber's extra-point kick

First came Seiber's 21-yard

missed and UT still led, 10-9. Not for long. Lucas Taylor fumbled the ensuing kickoff return and Kentucky recovered. The Wildcats reached first-

a 12-10 halftime lead. Fulmer's halftime message:

and-goal at the 6, but settled for

"Are we going to screw around and let a team that shouldn't beat us beat us?

"We just didn't seem like we had the energy we normally play with."

The energy level picked up enough to stage an 80-yard, 15play drive that included two fourth-down conversions, the latter one on the go-ahead touchdown.

The defense gave ground but

found ways to keep Kentucky off the scoreboard in the second half. Ainge was 11-of-16 passing in

the second half to finish at 19of-33 for 240 yards. Coker rushed for 90 yards and added 51 more on four re-

ceptions. "We were fortunate to win as much as we screwed up," said Ainge.

"I'm not saying we played

down to their level," said McBride, "but at halftime we made some adjustments and got our minds right."

MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL

And this time the Vols got the ending right. Even if they did have to use

up two early Christmas re-

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

# ADAMS

from VR1

he caught 29 passes for 383 yards and two touchdowns. His turnaround is symbolic of a team that has gone from 5-6 in 2005 to 9-3 and a bowl berth this season.

"We was mad last year," he said. "We weren't going to a bowl game. Now, we'll get to go to a pretty good bowl game — hopefully somewhere it's hot."

Like most of his teammates, Meachem has been motivated by last year's failure. In January, senior wide receiver Jayson Swain began talking about reviving UT's old

nickname of Wide Receiver U. Meachem and

the other receivers embraced the idea. "We want to be known as Wide Receiver U (again), because we feel like we let those guys down last year," Meachem said. "We got some great coaches fired. We felt like it was kind of our fault because we weren't able to make the

plays we needed to make.' Meachem has made play after play this season in becoming the best receiver in the SEC. He insists that he has been so involved in the season that he hasn't thought about what comes next.

"I haven't thought about going or staying," he said. "I don't know what I'm gonna do,

## "We want to be known as Wide Receiver U (again), because we feel like we let those guys down last vear."

Robert Meachem,

UT wide receiver

those fans chanting "One more year."

because I haven't thought about it." He will have plenty of time to think between now and UT's bowl game. And whenever he ponders the decision, he's apt to remember

But what's the point of one more year after a Meachem has established himself as one of the best receivers in college football. He had

demonstrated strength, speed, and sure hands.

And unlike previous seasons, he's healthy. He finally fulfilled the potential that he flashed as an All-American high school receiver in Tulsa, Okla. He helped put UT's

football program back on track.

It's not a bad time to say goodbye.

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

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ISUZU

# Sanders almost had part in upset of Vols

Randy Sanders obviously knew how close Kentucky had come to upsetting his alma mater.

Maybe that's why he didn't want to

Asked for post-game comments, the former Tennessee offensive coordinator and Kentucky quarterbacks coach responded with a polite, "I'd rather not." It was a tough day for Sanders and

the Kentucky offense.

The Wildcats (7-5, 4-4 SEC) failed to convert on two red zone opportunities in the second half and dropped a 17-12 decision to No. 19-ranked Tennessee on Saturday.

Kentucky coach Rich Brooks wasn't interested in any moral victories. He knew one had gotten away from the

"We had one conference win on the road this year and I thought we were

going to have maybe the biggest one for Kentucky in a lot of years, but we didn't finish it," he said.

"Is it one step forward, two steps back? I don't know. We had a chance to win the darn game and we didn't get

For Sanders, it was a rude welcome to the other side of the spectrum.

In one form or another — as a UT player, assistant coach or coordinator - he had been on Tennessee's sideline during 21 consecutive victories against

Kentucky quarterback Andre Woodson played well enough to win, but like so many other times for the Wildcats, they came up short.

Woodson did his part by going 26-of-39 passing for 282 yards and one touch-

"He told us to not do it for him, but to do it for ourselves," Woodson said of advice received from Sanders this week.

"Of course, we wanted to the win the game for him because of the situation he came from.'

Sanders resigned under fire as UT's offensive coordinator on the heels of Tennessee's 5-6 season in 2005.

Hired by Brooks, Sanders has helped turn Woodson into one of the most productive quarterbacks in the SEC (3,216 yards passing with 28 touchdowns and seven interceptions).

That didn't help ease the pain on Sat-

Kentucky consistently moved the ball, finishing with 410 total yards to 336 for the Vols, but scoring wasn't so easy.

"I thought we were in a good position a number of times," Brooks said. "We just failed to execute in the red zone and we let them out of their short end of the field a few too many times.

"I'm just really disappointed we're

Fourth-Down Woes: The Wildcats tried to convert on fourth down three times and came up empty in all three.

The biggest came as the fourth quarter wound down and Kentucky was on a 15-play drive that penetrated as deep at the Vols' 3-yard line.

A delay of game penalty moved the Wildcats back on second down and Woodson had back-to-back incompletions on third and fourth down.

'We've got to convert those," UK offensive coordinator Joker Phillips said. "That's why we're standing here without a win."

Bobcats' Homecoming: It was a day of mixed results for former Central High School teammates Lones Seiber and A.J. Nance.

Seiber, a freshman, converted on field goals of 21 and 20 yards, but missed an extra point and a 33-yard field goal attempt right.

"We missed some kicks that would have made a heck of a difference," Brooks said.

Nance, a freshman walk on, had one of the biggest special teams plays of the day when he forced a Lucas Taylor fumble on second-quarter UT kickoff re-

Kentucky's Micah Johnson recovered at the UT 19 and Seiber gave the Wildcats a 12-10 halftime lead on his 20-yard field goal with 18 seconds remaining.

Worst Defense?: The Wildcats came into the game ranked 119th, dead last among NCAA Division I schools in total defense (468.7 yards per game).

They turned it up a notch against Tennessee.

'The great thing about sports is you get to redeem yourself and go out and prove to people you're not as bad as people think you are," defensive coordinator Mike Archer said.



Defensive back Ryan Smith of Florida makes an interception in the third quarter of Saturday's game against Florida State in Tallahassee, Fla. Florida won 21-14.

# Leak leads Florida past FSU, 21-14

Meyer critical of lack of 'style points'

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida coach Urban Meyer gathered his offensive linemen and gave a simple message: protect the quarterback.

He was counting on Chris Leak to do the rest — and keep the fourth-ranked Gators in the national championship hunt.

The often-criticized senior quarterback came through, directing one of the best drives of his career when Florida needed it most and delivering a 21-14 victory over rival Florida State on

"I told coach to just open it up and let me go pick them apart," Leak said.

on the game-winning drive early in the fourth quarter. He called an audible on third down, recognizing a blitz and checking to a skinny post, and hooked up with Dallas Baker for a 25-yard gain. He connected with Baker again two plays later for a 25yard score.

Leak finished 21-of-34 for 283 yards with two touchdowns. The senior improved to 3-1 against Florida State (6-6), completing 59 percent of his passes for 1,098 yards, with seven touchdowns and two interceptions.

But to finally dump his critics, he has to do one thing.

"He hasn't won a championship," Meyer said. "Let's go win a championship."

The Gators (11-1) might have a shot at two; they play Arkansas

Leak was 7-of-8 for 79 yards in the SEC championship game next week and still have a chance to face Ohio State in the national title game. But they need to beat the Razorbacks and have Southern California lose to get consideration over Michigan.

Florida, fourth in the last Bowl Championship Series standings, certainly didn't get any "style points" with its latest win.

"Here's our style: You got at Tennessee, you've got Kentucky, you've got Alabama, LSU, Georgia and Auburn and at Tallahassee," Meyer said, recalling much of Florida's schedule. "So much for style. You want to put that one against anyone in the country, let's go ahead and go.

"If that's what's making decisions, then I'm going to stand by my comment from a week ago. Implode it. It's over. If that's what's making the decisions style points, which I imagine that's what it is — we've got a problem. It's called winning and losing and playing a difficult

Meyer might not have a firm grasp of the BCS, but he sure knows how to win rivalry games.

Florida won its third straight against Florida State and improved to 6-0 against its three main rivals — Tennessee, Georgia and Florida State — in Meyer's two seasons.

The Gators also won consecutive games in Tallahassee for the first time since 1986 and won three in a row against their instate rivals for the first time since a six-game streak between 1981 and 1986.

Florida also overcame the loss of Harvin and running back DeShawn Wynn.

Harvin, the team's most dvnamic player, was strapped to a backboard and carted off the field in the second quarter. He briefly lost feeling in his neck, but was walking around at halftime and should be OK.

'We were devastated," said Caldwell, who caught eight passes for 124 yards. "We were hoping he was able to get up and get back soon."

Wynn injured his left shoulder on the second play of the third quarter and did not return. So the Gators decided to re-

ly on Leak.

"I think they're doggone good," FSU coach Bobby Bowden said. "They looked darn second to that 1996 team they had. That's how they looked to

# Spurrier says future now at South Carolina, 31-28

**Associated Press** 

**CLEMSON, S.C.** — Steve Spurrier says he understands what South Carolina fans have gone through — and hopes they'll like what they see in the coming years.

The coach said the future started Saturday with the Gamecocks' come-frombehind 31-28 victory over No. 24 Clemson, ending their 0-5 mark against ranked opponents this season and a four-game losing streak to their Palmetto State ri-

"This one was for our fans," Spurrier said. "They've lived through a lot."

Particularly when it comes to the

Tigers (8-4), who have won almost twothirds of the 104 games in the series that began in 1896. Things had been really bad since South Carolina's last victory at Death Valley in 1996, with Clemson winning eight of the previous nine games.

This time, South Carolina (7-5) rallied with the game's final 17 points on two

Mike Davis touchdown runs and Ryan Succop's 35-yard fourth-quarter field goal. Clemson kicker Jad Dean missed a 39-

yard field goal try wide to the left and the Gamecocks began a celebration they had waited for all year.

"Hopefully, whatever bad things hap-

pened to South Carolina football may be erased today," Spurrier said.

'Sometimes a game like this can do it," he added. "Only time can tell." A week ago, Spurrier was deflecting

Internet reports he would be the top target for Miami's open job. Again, Saturday, he said he's at South Carolina to succeed with the Gamecocks.

Things didn't look so good in the third quarter, though.

The Gamecocks trailed 28-14 after C.J. Spiller's second touchdown run early in the quarter and looked like they were about to fall again to Clemson. But the Gamecocks rallied behind quarterback Blake Mitchell, who shook off three earlier interceptions to lead three scoring

Clemson had a final chance, driving to South Carolina's 12. But Jasper Brinkley sacked Will Proctor for a 10-yard loss, pushing Dean back on his final try. "I didn't hit it great, but I thought I had hit it good enough," Dean said.

South Carolina's Cory Boyd, who rushed for 106 yards and a touchdown, was in tears as he walked through a throng of cheering fans in the corner of the end zone as the band played.

# **SEC STANDINGS**

	SEC	All	
Florida	7-1	11-1	
Tennessee	5-3	9-3	
Kentucky	4-4	7-5	
Georgia	4-4	8-4	
South Carolina	3-5	7-5	
/anderbilt	1-7	4-8	

WEST

	SEC	AII
Arkansas	7-1	10-2
Auburn	6-2	10-2
LSU	6-2	10-2
Alabama	2-6	6-6
Ole Miss	2-6	4-8
Miss State	1-7	3-9

Friday's result LSU 31, Arkansas 26

Saturday's results Tennessee 17, Kentucky 12

Florida 21, Florida St. 20 South Carolina 31, Clemson 28 Mississippi 20, Mississippi St. 17 Georgia 15, Georgia Tech 12

Saturday's game

Arkansas vs. Florida, SEC Championship, 6 (WVLT)

# **Green's** punt return lifts Ole Miss

**Associated Press** 

**OXFORD, Miss.** — Marshay Green will find it hard to top his first Egg

The freshman returned a punt 47 yards for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter Saturday to give Ole Miss a 20-17 win over Mississippi State. The biggest play of his young career rescued the Rebels.

"It was 'punt safe,' so I was just supposed to catch the ball," Green said of the play called on the return. "But it was scary because when I made my first move, I saw it open up, and I knew I had a chance to go. It was a great feeling. I can't describe it.'

Ole Miss needed 13 points from special teams to return the Egg Bowl trophy to Oxford. The game between two of the SEC's worst teams featured little offense. But the Rebels (4-8, 2-6 SEC) managed a touchdown pass to defensive end Greg Hardy early and held on to the victory with the help of two short field goals by Joshua Shene.

Mississippi State kicker Adam Carlson missed a 51-yard field goal that would have tied the game as time ran out.

The Bulldogs (3-9, 1-7) finish with the worst record in the SEC and have not won more than three games in a season since 2000. The Rebels have taken the Egg Bowl trophy home after four of the last five contests and hold a series edge of 59-38-6.

Special teams cost the Bulldogs a chance to win against Arkansas. Coach Sylvester Croom said there will be changes made on special teams before next season. 'We don't make tackles in the

open field," he said. "We are not punting well. That puts even more pressure on our coverage people. We have got to kick the ball a lot better than we did this year."

Ole Miss coach Ed Orgeron said he was happy with the win. But he said finishing the season with a win in the Egg Bowl is not the goal of the program. It's a matter of perspective.

"A big victory is to win the Sugar Bowl," Orgeron said. "It's important to win the Egg Bowl."

# Georgia has a Ball against Georgia Tech, 15-12

Stafford finds Massaquoi for game-winning TD

**Associated Press** 

ATHENS, Ga. — Matthew Stafford grew up in Georgia's last two games, helping turn what appeared to be a lost season into one that suddenly looks a whole lot better for the Bulldogs.

The freshman threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Mohamed Massaquoi with 1:45 remaining, leading the Bulldogs past No. 16 Georgia Tech 15-12 on Saturday for their sixth consecutive win in the heated series.

While the Yellow Jackets (9-3) have a chance to win the Atlantic Coast Conference championship next Saturday, they'll have to wait a whole year to get another shot at their biggest rival.

Georgia (8-4) is still on top in this state, which seemed improbable three weeks ago when the Bulldogs lost for the fourth time in five games — a dismal stretch that included losses to Kentucky and Vanderbilt.

Now, the Bulldogs have won two in a row, following up a stunning 37-15 upset of then-No. 5 Auburn with yet another win over the Yellow Jackets. They'll head on to a bowl, most likely the Music City in Nashville or the Chickfil-A in Atlanta.

'This shows what type of team we have," senior safety Tra Battle said. "When adversity hit, we regrouped. Yeah, we lost some games we shouldn't have lost. But be beat two highly ranked teams at the end of the year. You couldn't ask for anything more."

Stafford played a big role in both wins. He accounted for 302 yards rushing and passing against Auburn, then rallied from a sluggish start to direct the biggest drive of the season after Georgia Tech reclaimed the lead, 12-7, on Tashard Choice's 10-yard touchdown run with

8:50 remaining.

Stafford completed four passes on the 12-play, 64-yard drive, the last of them to Massaquoi on third-and-goal from the 4.

Stafford also flipped a two-point conversion pass to Massaquoi.

This loss was especially galling for Georgia Tech, which couldn't overcome a miserable game by quarterback Reggie Ball.

The senior completed 6-of-22 passes for 42 yards with two interceptions.

Paul Oliver finished off Ball's awful career against Georgia by picking off a pass thrown toward Calvin Johnson

with a minute remaining.

"(Ball) was definitely rattled at the end of the game," Georgia defensive tackle Ray Gant said. "He was kicking and shoving people. He's 0-4 against Georgia, so you can't really blame him. I might be kicking and shoving guys too if that was my record against them."

Stafford rallied in the second half, finishing 16-of-29 for 171 yards. More important, he didn't throw any interceptions for the second week in a row.

When the protection was there, Matthew did a good job of hitting his targets," said Georgia coach Mark Richt, who's never lost to the Yellow Jackets.

# South Florida surprises West Virginia

Rutgers will win Big East with win over Mountaineers

**Associated Press** 

Scratch unstoppable from the ways to describe Steve Slaton, Pat White and West Virginia's running game. South Florida saw to that on Saturday.

The Bulls' defense scored on a fumble return and held the nation's secondbest rushing and scoring offense to less than half of its averages in a 24-19 win over the No. 7 Mountaineers on Satur-

Matt Grothe ran for a touchdown and passed for another as South Florida (8-4, 4-3 Big East) handed West Virginia (9-2, 4-2) its first home loss in nine games - a loss that could end the Mountaineers' chances for a Bowl Championship Series bid.

South Florida coach Jim Leavitt described it as a milestone in the school's 11-year football history, surpassing a win over Louisville last year.

"This probably was the biggest because we won here and it's so hard to win here," Leavitt said. "It's hard to beat these guys anywhere."

West Virginia fell into second place in the conference and its streak of three consecutive conference titles is in jeopardy. The Mountaineers are relegated to the role of spoiler: They finish the regular season at home next Saturday against Rutgers, which can clinch a BCS

For a team averaging 41 points and 330 rushing yards, West Virginia looked listless.

"That's the worst our offense has played all year. Some of our best runs today, we're losing yards," said West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez.

Slaton, the nation's No. 2 rusher, had his worst game as a starter. He saw his streak of six consecutive 100-yard games snapped, finishing with a season-low 43 yards, 115 below his average. The Mountaineers were limited to 132 yards rush-

Rutgers 38, Syracuse 7: Brian Leonard become Rutgers' career scoring leader and the No. 15 Scarlet Knights (10-1, 5-1 Big East) moved within striking distance of their first Big East championship with a win over the visiting Orange.

The 10-win season is only the second in school history.

Meanwhile, Rutgers coach Greg Schiano has no plans on leaving New Jersey despite reports that he is one of the leading contenders to replace Larry Coker

"My philosophy is I focus on the things I have control over and can make a difference in," said Schiano, who transformed Rutgers from one the lowliest programs into a national contender in six seasons. "The whole Miami thing, I've said it for six weeks, I'm very happy here, I have no plans to go anywhere

Schiano, though, never said he was staying at Rutgers.

The 40-year-old Schiano, who was the Hurricanes' defensive coordinator before taking the Rutgers job in December 2000, has faced questions about a potential opening at Miami for more

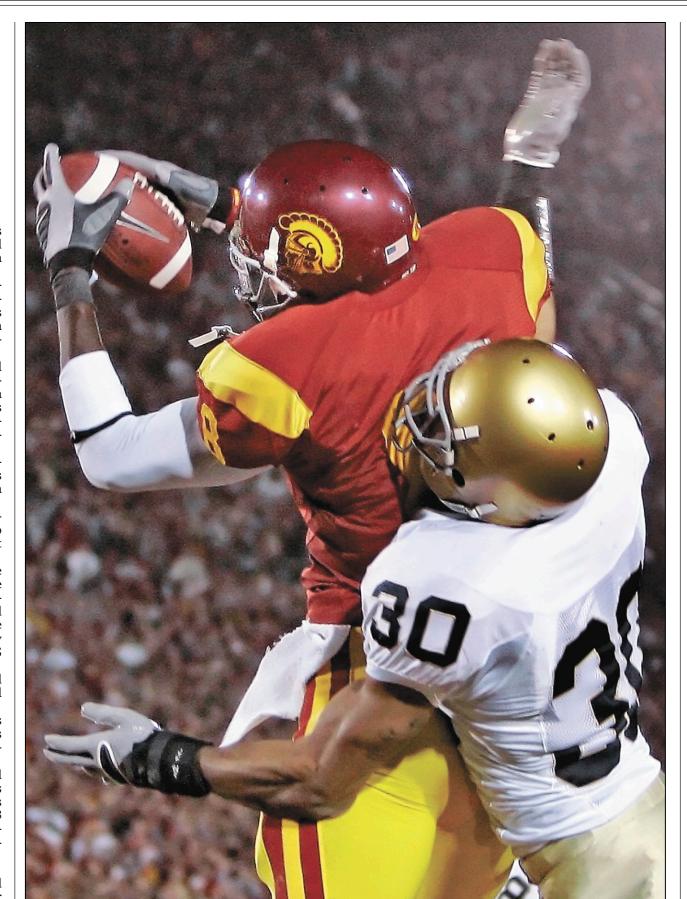
Louisville 48, Pitt 24: Brian Brohm threw four touchdown passes against a Pitt defense that again showed little resistance and the No. 8 Cardinals (10-1, 5-1 Big East) beat the Panthers in Pittsburgh.

Louisville can win the Big East title only if West Virginia beats Rutgers.

The Cardinals outscored Pitt 34-3 after falling behind 14-7 in the first quar-

Brohm threw scoring passes of 42 yards to Mario Urrutia, 9 to Gary Barnidge, 1 to Scott Kuhn and 75 to Harry Douglas. Brohm finished 21-for-29 for 337 yards. Urrutia caught seven passes for 144 yards.

Pitt (6-6, 2-5) lost its fifth in a row after winning six of its first seven and, while bowl-eligible, likely won't find a bowl willing to take a team that hasn't won since Oct. 13.



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southern Cal receiver Dwayne Jarrett, left, catches his second touchdown of the game as Notre Dame's Mike Richardson defends during Saturday's game in Los Angeles.

# **USC** makes case for No. 2

Trojans have easy time with Notre Dame, 44-24

**Associated Press** 

**LOS ANGELES** — No need for any lastsecond heroics to beat Notre Dame this

Southern California's John David Booty passed for 265 yards and three TDs to Dwayne Jarrett as USC whipped the sixth-ranked Fighting Irish 44-24 Saturday night and likely leapfrogged Michigan in the race for the national championship.

No. 3 USC contained Brady Quinn, the Irish's Heisman Trophy contender, and put together a performance that should boost its Bowl Championship Series standing. The Trojans were a close third behind the Wolverines last

Should the Trojans (10-1) beat UCLA (6-5) at the Rose Bowl next weekend, they'll probably face top-ranked Ohio State in the BCS title game Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz. USC has beaten its crosstown rivals seven consecutive times. And now the Trojans have won five in a row against Notre Dame (10-

The Trojans played in the BCS title game the past two years — winning one and losing one — and earned a piece of the national championship three years ago after being bypassed

for the title game. Booty, who completed 17 of 28 passes and was intercepted twice, watched from the sideline when the Trojans beat the Irish 34-31 at Notre Dame last year on Matt Leinart's 1-yard sneak with three

seconds remaining. Jarrett, whose 61-yard reception on a fourth-and-9 play kept that final drive in South Bend alive, caught scoring passes of 9, 5 and 43 yards from Booty, who succeeded Leinart as USC's quarterback. The 43-yarder came with 8:21 remaining and gave the Trojans a 37-17

Jarrett finished with seven receptions for 132 yards and USC freshman C.J. Gable rushed for 107 yards on 20 car-

Quinn threw a 2-yard scoring pass to Jeff Samardzija with 3:39 left, but Brian Cushing returned the ensuing onside kickoff 42 yards to put an exclamation point on the victory.

Quinn, playing his final regular-season game, completed 22 of 45 passes for 274 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions. He also rushed for 74 yards — most of it on a 60-yard scramble in the second quarter.

Rhema McKnight caught six passes for 109 yards and one touchdown and Jeff Samardzija had six receptions for 79 yards and one TD.

The three Notre Dame stars — all seniors — leave school having never

beaten USC. The win before a crowd of 91,800 at the Los Angeles Coliseum was the Trojans 55th in their last 58 games. They're 20-0 in November games under coach

Pete Carroll, and have won 33 straight

home games.

The loss snapped an eight-game winning streak for Notre Dame, but the Irish still figure to play in a big-money bowl game.

The Trojans moved 65 yards with the second half kickoff, scoring on a 2yard run by Chauncey Washington for a 28-10 lead. Washington's 5-yard run on fourth-and-1 from the Notre Dame 30 kept the drive alive, and Jarrett made a one-handed catch for a 19-yard gain on the next play.

The Irish drew within 11 points late in the third period on a 2-yard pass from Quinn to McKnight on fourth-and-goal. It was McKnight's 15th touchdown reception this season, tying the school record set by Samarzdija last season.

The Trojans extended their lead to 31-17 on Mario Danelo's 34-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter.

USC scored on its first three possessions and led 21-10 at halftime. It might have been closer had the Irish not failed to convert three fourth-down plays in USC territory.

Quinn threw a 38-yard pass to McKnight on the game's first play, but Quinn's pass to McKnight on fourthand-9 from the USC 29 was incomplete. The Trojans then moved 71 yards, scoring on a 9-yard pass from Booty to Jar-

USC forced a punt, and Desmond Reed, who tore up his knee in last year's game at Notre Dame, returned it 43 yards to the Irish 26. Booty threw a 5-yard TD pass to Jarrett three plays later.

# Wake Forest claims ACC Atlantic title

Deacons hand Maryland first home defeat, 38-24

**Associated Press** 

Wake Forest completed the finest road performance in Atlantic Coast Conference history against a team it had trouble beating anywhere.

Now, after defeating Maryland 38-24 Saturday night, the No. 20 Demon Deacons will take their successful road show to Florida to play for the league championship. Wake Forest (10-2, 6-2 ACC) will be

seeking its first ACC title since 1970 next Saturday against Georgia Tech in Jacksonville. The teams did not face each other this season.

"It feels really good," Wake Forest coach Jim Grobe said. "These guys have even exceeded my expectations. They've done some cool stuff.'

The final game of a crazy ACC regular season matched two of the league's most surprising teams in a duel for the Atlantic Division title. Wake Forest handed Maryland (8-4, 5-3) its first home loss behind an offense that was virtually unstoppable.

Kenneth Moore ran for 165 yards and a touchdown, Kevin Harris scored twice, and freshman quarterback Riley Skinner went 10-for-13 for 125 yards and a touchdown for the Demon Deacons, who became the first ACC team in history to go 6-0 on the road.

They ran up and down the field on us. I'm really disappointed how we played defensively," Maryland coach Ralph Friedgen said. "We couldn't stop

them at all."

It was Wake Forest's first win in eight tries against Maryland since 1998. The Demon Deacons were 13-40-1 against the Terrapins and had scored as many as 38 points against them only twice be-

"They predicted us to be at the bottom of the conference," Wake Forest safety Josh Gattis said. "Hard work, determination, guys stepping up to make key plays, having faith in our teammates led us to victory."

The Terrapins still will be going to a bowl game, no small accomplishment for a team coming off consecutive 5-6 seasons. But Maryland had its eye on the Orange Bowl, and that's not going to happen.

"It's disheartening," Friedgen said. "We had a chance to do something special tonight and didn't get it done.

Virginia Tech 17, Virginia 0: Sean Glennon threw a touchdown pass, George Bell ran for a score and No. 17 Virginia Tech's defense made it stand as the Hokies ran their winning streak to six games and beat Virginia in Blacksburg, Va.

The Hokies (10-2, 6-2 ACC) deprived the Cavaliers (5-7, 4-4) of a bowl chance and beat their in-state rivals for the seventh time in eight meetings.

Virginia Tech put the game away in the third quarter, outgaining Virginia 160-12 while putting together scoring drives of 74 and 91 yards.

Virginia Tech's defense, ranked second in the nation, posted its fourth shutout of the season. The Cavaliers finished with just 112 yards and managed only five first downs.

The turning point came just before halftime when, Virginia sent in a fivereceiver formation for a third-and-5 from

Quarterback Jameel Sewell, who picked apart Miami's highly ranked defense last week, was hit by Xavier Adibi as he was dropping back and fumbled. Carlton Powell recovered for the Hokies at the 12, and Bell ran four times for the touchdown with 39 seconds left in the half.

Glennon had said the game was a chance to show Virginia it made a mistake by not offering him a scholarship. After a shaky start, he finished 12-for-18 for 146 yards and a touchdown.

"I don't know if I was nervous, but I was like, 'We can't lose to UVa. It can't happen," "Glennon said. "I was a little on edge. I didn't want to lose this one."

# Big 12 South belongs to streaking Sooners

After a costly controversy and a Red River loss, Oklahoma seemed to be down and out. But look at the Sooners now. back on top and playing for a berth in

Allen Patrick ran for 163 yards and a touchdown to help No. 13 Oklahoma survive another scare and win the Big 12 South title with a 27-21 win against Oklahoma State on Saturday in Stillwater,

The Sooners' run to the title started after a loss to Texas in October, and six of the team's seven consecutive wins have come without star tailback Adrian Peterson.

"We've overcome a lot, but we knew we could get here," quarterback Paul Thompson said. "We knew we had the guys, the personnel to get here, especially after the changes we made and we saw what we had in our replacements. We never gave up hope of getting here, and now we're here."

Patrick gave Oklahoma (10-2, 7-1 Big 12) a two-touchdown lead with a 65-yard run on the opening play of the second half, and the Cowboys (6-6, 3-5) couldn't quite finish a comeback despite three straight three-and-outs by the Sooners down the stretch.

After getting the ball back with 1:38 left, backup quarterback Zac Robinson guided Oklahoma State to the Sooners' 25. But his desperation throw to D'Juan Woods on the final play sailed high and incomplete.

"The last play, we knew they were going to throw a Hail Mary. Somebody had to get it," said Oklahoma cornerback Lendy Holmes, who got a piece of the ball and prevented Oklahoma State from pulling an upset for the third time in six

The Cowboys knocked Oklahoma out



TY RUSSELL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oklahoma defensive back Nic Harris, left, breaks up a pass intended for Oklahoma State's Brandon Pettigrew. The Sooners won the Big 12 South title with a 27-21 victory.

of the national title picture in 2001 and then did it again in 2002 with a 38-28 upset in Stillwater.

Not this time. The Sooners were 3-2 after losing at Oregon, a game made infamous in Oklahoma by some blown officials' calls, and to rival Texas. But they rebounded to earn a spot in next week's Big 12 title

"It means a lot," Holmes said. "We're just looking forward instead of going backward."

Peterson, still out with a broken collarbone, rushed onto the field and leaped into the arms of defensive end C.J. Ah You in celebration.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said it was "doubtful" that Peterson would play against Nebraska next week, but then re-

The Sooners used a ball-control offense and a key goal-line stand to escape

Patrick, who missed the past two games with an ankle injury, had 23 carries as the Sooners ran 47 times while throwing only 11 passes. Freshman Chris Brown added 74 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

The Cowboys trailed by 13 in the fourth quarter when three Sooners stacked up Robinson short of the goal line on fourth down and forced a fumble linebacker Demarrio Pleasant recovered in the end

Boise State 38, Nevada 7: Ian Johnson ran for 147 yards and three touchdowns, and Jared Zabransky passed for 299 yards to lead the No. 12 Broncos over the Wolfpack in Reno, Nev., and all but wrapping up a spot in the BCS.

Zabranksy completed 20 of 27 passes, including a 45-yard TD to Legedu Naanee for the Broncos (12-0, 8-0 Western Athletic Conference), who are 39-1 in the WAC since 2002 and have won at least a share of the league title five years in a

They are 11th in the BCS standings and have to finish No. 12 or better to automatically qualify for one of the big-money bowls.

Nevada (8-4, 4-3) entered the game leading the nation with a turnover margin of plus 15, but lost three fumbles in the first 24 minutes and fell behind 17-0

Naanee caught seven passes for 129 yards for the Broncos, who snapped Nevada's 10-game home winning streak and claimed their seventh consecutive victory over the Wolfpack.

Johnson ran 31 times and set the school single-season record with 1,613 yards rush-

BYU 33, Utah 31: John Beck threw an 11yard touchdown pass to Jonny Harline with no time remaining to rally the No. 21 Cougars (10-2, 8-0 Mountain West Conference) over Utah (7-5, 5-3) at Salt Lake City, ending the Utes' four-year run in the state rivalry.

Utah took a 31-27 lead on Brett Ratliff's 19-yard pass to Brent Casteel with 1:19 left, but Beck led BYU on a 75-yard drive

Beck was 28-for-43 for 375 yards and four touchdowns, including three to Har-

Ratliff was 24-for-39 for 358 yards and three touchdowns.

# **Troy State in driver's seat**

game against Nebraska.

MTSU needs Trojans to lose to FIU

Associated Press

MURFREESBORO — Omar Haugabook threw two touchdown passes in the final 2:20 to help Troy University rally past Middle Tennessee State, 21-20, on Sat-

With the victory, the Trojans (6-5, 5-1) are in position to capture the Sun Belt Conference's berth to the New Orleans Bowl.

Troy plays at Florida International on Saturday. If Troy loses, Middle Tennessee would be the conference champion.

Haugabook connected with Smokey Hampton on a 19-yard touchdown pass with 2:19 remaining to pull the Trojans to

Troy recovered the ensuing onsides kick at MTSU's 42. Haugabook converted a fourth-and-17 situation with a 19-yard pass to Hampton between two defenders.

On the next play, Haugabook threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Gary Banks.

Haugabook completed 30 of 40 passes for 235 yards and the two touchdowns. He also added a touchdown rushing in the second quarter, cutting MTSU's lead to 10-7.

The Blue Raiders (7-5, 6-1) had taken a 20-7 lead into the fourth quarter.

Desmond Gee threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Stephen Chicola on a tailback option pass with 11:19 left.

Middle Tennessee built a 10-0 lead midway through the second quarter. Colby Smith capped a 12-play

drive with a 26-yard field goal on the first play of the second quar-

After stopping Troy on downs



Troy running back Smoky Hampton lands on his head after being drilled by a Middle Tennessee State defender in Saturday's game.

and forcing a punt, the Blue Raiders put together another lengthy drive.

MTSU capped a 12-play, 66yard drive with a 4-yard touch-

Southern Illinois ends Martin's run

down run by Gee.

The Blue Raiders answered with a drive the final 1:44 of the half.

Smith kicked a career-long 48yard field goal on the last play before halftime.

# BILLY KINGSLEY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CARBONDALE, III.** — Arkee Whitlock rushed for 207 yards and four touchdowns as Southern Illinois beat UT Martin 36-30 Saturday in the first round of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs.

Whitlock carried the ball 28 times and accounted for nearly all of Southern Illinois' rushing yardage. The Salukis (9-3) rolled up 350 yards of total offense, with 221 yards coming on the ground.

From wire reports

UT Martin (9-3) jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter after Donald Chapman scored on a 1-yard run and Jack Greenwood returned an interception 51 yards for another touchdown.

Chapman finished with 108 yards on 31 carries. UT Martin quarterback Greg Preston completed 10 of 16 passes for 137 yards and one touch-

The Skyhawks had a 27-21 lead at the start of the fourth quarter. But Southern Illinois rallied

Despite the loss, it was the most excitement at UT Martin since 1988, when the Skyhawks went 11-2 and advanced to the quarterfinals of playoffs.

Failing to capitalize on the heady success of '88, the Skyhawks finished with a losing record in 14 of the next 15 seasons. They went a combined 3-41 from 1996-99 and managed just 12 wins in all between 1996 and 2004.

An ill-conceived move to Division I-AA left the program on life support for at least a decade.

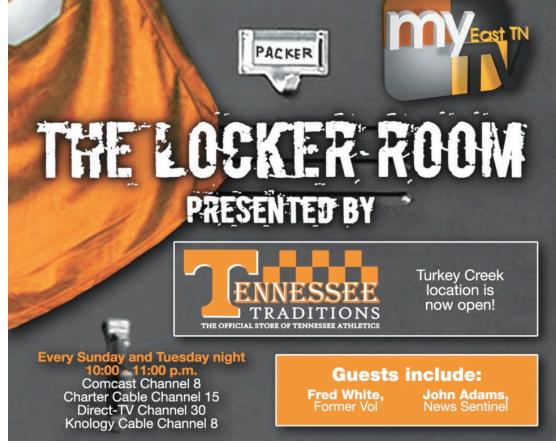
The on-the-field breakthrough came last fall, when the Skyhawks went 6-5, the school's first winning season since 1993.

## **BOWL SCHEDULE**

- Dec. 19 Poinsettia Bowl at San Diego, MWC No. 2/3 vs. At-large, 8 p.m. (ESPN2)
- Dec. 21 Las Vegas Bowl, BYU vs. Pac-10 No. 4/5, 8 p.m. (ESPN) ■ Dec. 22 New Orleans Bowl, Sun Belt
- champion vs. CUSA, 8 p.m. (ESPN2)
- Dec. 23 Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl, Big East or MAC vs. CUSA, 1 p.m. (ESPN2)
- Dec. 23 New Mexico Bowl at Albuquerque, MWC No. 4 vs. WAC No. 3, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 23 Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl, CUSA No. 4 vs. MWC No. 3, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 24 Hawaii Bowl at Honolulu, Pac 10 No. 6 vs. Hawaii, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 26 Motor City Bowl at Detroit, MAC vs. Big Ten No. 7, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 27 Emerald Bowl at San Francisco, ACC No. 5/6 vs. Pac-10 No. 4/5, 8 p.m.
- Dec. 28 Independence Bowl at Shreveport, La., Big 12 7/8 vs. SEC No. 8, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 28 Holiday Bowl at San Diego, Pac-10 No. 2 vs. Big 12 No. 3, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 28 Texas Bowl at Houston, Big East vs. Big 12, 8 p.m. (NFL)
- Dec. 29 Music City Bowl at Nashville, Tenn., ACC No. 5 vs. SEC No. 6, 1 p.m. (ESPN2)
- Dec. 29 Sun Bowl at El Paso, Texas, Big 12, Big East or Note Dame vs. Pac-10 No. 3, 2
- Dec. 29 Liberty Bowl at Memphis, Tenn., SEC vs. CUSA champion, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 29 Insight Bowl at Tempe, Ariz., Minnesota vs. Big 12 No. 6, 7:30 p.m. (NFL

## Network)

- Dec. 29 Champ Sports Bowl at Orlando, Fla., ACC No. 4 vs. Purdue, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 30 Meineke Bowl at Charlotte, N.C., Navy vs. ACC No. 5/6, 1 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 30 Alamo Bowl at San Antonio, Iowa vs. Big 12 No. 4/5, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 30 Chick-fil-A Bowl at Atlanta, ACC No. 2 vs. SEC No. 5, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Dec. 31 MPC Computers Bowl at Boise, Idaho, WAC vs. ACC No. 8, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Jan. 1 Outback Bowl at Tampa, Fla., Penn State vs. SEC No. 3, 11 a.m. (ESPN)
- Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl at Dallas, SEC No. 3 vs. Big 12 No. 2, 11:30 a.m. (FOX)
- Jan. 1 Capital One Bowl at Orlando, Fla., Wisconsin vs. SEC, 1 p.m. (ABC)
- Jan. 1 Gator Bowl at Jacksonville, Fla., ACC No. 3 vs. Big 12, Big East No. 2 or Notre Dame, 1 p.m. (CBS)
- (Pac-10 champ) vs. BCS (Big Ten champ), 5 p.m. (ABC)
- Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl at Glendale, Ariz., BCS vs. BCS (Big 12), 8:30 p.m. (FOX)
- Jan. 2 Orange Bowl at Miami, BCS vs. BCS, 8 p.m. (FOX)
- Jan. 3 Sugar Bowl at New Orleans, BCS vs. BCS, 8 p.m. (FOX)
- Jan. 6 International Bowl at Toronto, Big East No. 4/5 vs. MAC No. 2/3, Noon (ESPN2)
- Jan. 7 GMAC Bowl at Mobile, Ala., CUSA No. 2 vs. MAC, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Jan. 8 BCS National Championship at Glendale, Ariz., BCS1 vs. BCS2, 8 p.m. (FOX)



### **Summaries**

Florida 7 7 0 7 - 21 Florida St. 0 0 7 7 - 14 First Quarter
Fla—Caldwell 66 pass from Leak (Hetland kick), 3:15

No. 4 Florida 21, Florida St. 14

Second Quarter Fla—Harvin 41 run (Hetland kick), 5:52.

**Third Quarter** FSU—Surratt 1 run (Cismesia kick), 5:20.

Fourth Quarter
FSU—Carr 25 pass from Weatherford
(Cismesia kick), 14:27.
Fla—Baker 25 pass from Leak (Hetland kick), 10:22.
A—83,507.

First downs Rushes-yards 16 32-105 11 18-46 Passing Comp-Att-Int 283 21-35-0 189 18-43-3 Return Yards Punts-Avg. 12 5-44.0 9 8-41.5 Fumbles-Lost 1-1 7-65 Penalties-Yards 4-27 33:43 Individual Statistics

Rushing: Florida, Harvin 4-86, Leak 8-17, Wynn 9-10, Moore 2-5, Tebow 4-3, Tr, wylling-in, woole 2-5, leuow 4-5, leam 1-(minus 2), James 1-(minus 3), Caldwell 3-(minus 11). Florida St, Booker 10-61, Surratt 1-1, Sims 1-(minus 1), Team 1-(minus 4), Weather-ford 5-(minus 11).

tord 5-(minus 11).

Passing: Florida, Leak 21-34-0-283, Tebow 0-1-0-0. Florida St., Weatherford 16-37-3-181, Lee 2-6-0-8.

Receiving: Florida, Caldwell 8-124, Baker 5-84, Cornelius 4-44, Ingram 3-9, Moore 1-2. Florida St., C.Davis 6-85, Warren 4-32, Carr 3-42, Fagg 2-14, Booker 2-5, Shaw 1-11. Booker 2-5, Shaw 1-11.

South Florida 24, No. 7 West Virginia 19 

Second Quarter WVU-FG McAfee 30, 14:56. WVU-FG McAfee 32, 9:14. USF—Selvie 9 fumble return (Alvarado kick), 7:20.
USF—Grothe 10 run (Alvarado kick),

Third Quarter
WVU—Myles 15 pass from White
(pass failed), 7:16.
USF—Randolph 21 pass from Grothe
(Alvarado kick), 3:13. Fourth Quarter USF-FG Alvarado 18, 6:38. WVU—Myles 44 pass from White (McAfee kick), 5:16.

À-52,790. WVU First downs First downs Rushes-yards Passing Comp-Att-Int Return Yards Punts-Avg. Fumbles-Lost Penalties-Yards Possession 39-84 37-132 279 178 22-30-2 14-22-2 13 50 5-44.4 3-41.7 0-0 8-60 32:32 Possession

Individual Statistics Rushing: South Florida, Grothe 23-47, Ponton 7-24, B.Williams 7-20, Team 2-(minus 7). West Virginia, Reynaud 2-67, Slaton 18-43, White 15-17, Schmitt 1-3, McClintic 1-2. Passing: South Florida, Grothe 22-30-2-279. West Virginia, White 14-22-2-

Receiving: South Florida, Randolph 7-65, Edwards 5-57, Johnson 3-40, Gordon 2-24, Jackson 1-39, Ponton 1-16, A.Hill 1-15, Busbee 1-14, Bleakley 1-9. West Virginia, Myles 6-95, Reynaud 3-34, Jalloh 2-22, Slaton 2-8, Bolden 1-19.

kick), 8:34.

Fourth Quarter

First downs Rushes-yards Passing Comp-Att-Int

Return Yards

Punts-Avg. Fumbles-Lost

Possession

Penalties-Yards

kick), 6:41.

Third Quarter
Boi—Perretta 5 run (Montgomery
kick), 10:13.
Boi—Naanee 45 pass from Zabransky
(Montgomery kick), 6:18.
Nev—Hawthrone 45 interception return (Jaekle kick), 2:52.

hnson 3 run (Montgomery

Boi 25 52-178 299 20-27-1

2-45.0

5-41 32:38

Individual Statistics Rushing: Boise St., I.Johnson 31-147, Denton 10-33, Perretta 2-5, Helman-

dollar 1-0, Montgomery 1-(minus 2), Zabransky 7-(minus 5). Nevada, Hub-bard 12-105, Lippincott 2-12, McCoy 1-11, Rowe 7-(minus 22).

Passing: Boise St., Zabransky 20-27-

1-299. Nevada, Rowe 6-15-0-35. Recelving: Boise St., Naanee 7-129, Childs 3-65, James 3-44, Rabb 3-38, Lau 1-9, Hunter 1-6, Schouman 1-5, Putnam 1-3. Nevada, Spencer 4-17, Hubbard 1-9, Pudewell 1-9.

Oklahoma 7 6 14 0 –27 Oklahoma St. 7 0 7 7 –21

First Quarter
OkSt—Savage 5 run (Ricks kick), 9:49.
Okl—Brown 3 run (Hartley kick), 3:37.

Okl—Iglesias 13 pass from Thompson (kick failed), 1:08.

OkSt—Reid 1 run (Ricks kick), 9:38. Okl—Brown 1 run (Hartley kick), 3:51.

Fourth Quarter
OkSt—D'.Woods 2 pass from Reid
(Ricks kick), 6:41.
A–42,819.

Rushing: Oklahoma, Patrick 23-163, Brown 19-74, Thompson 5-1. Oklahoma St., Savage 16-49, Toston 6-33,

Reid 10-20. Robinson 6-19. Crosslin 1-

Passing: Oklahoma, Thompson 7-11-0-77. Oklahoma St., Robinson 8-17-0-149, Reid 8-12-0-82, Newton 1-1-0-12,

19 47-238

2-11 30:52

No. 13 Oklahoma 27,

Oklahoma St. 21

Second Ouarter

Third Ouarter

First downs

Rushes-vards Passing

Comp-Att-Int

Return Yards Punts-Avg. Fumbles-Lost

Possession

Penalties-Yards

Individual Statistics

22-106 35 6-15-0 60

7-39.4

1:17.

No. 8 Louisville 48. Pittsburgh 24
Louisville 10 14 14 10 – 48
Pittsburgh 14 3 0 7 – 24

First Quarter Lou-K.Smith 19 run (Carmody kick), Lou-K.Smith 19 run (Carmody kick), 11:33. Pitt-Stephens-Howling 6 run (Lee kick), 6:37. Pitt-Turner 21 pass from Kinder (Lee kick), 5:49. Lou-FG Carmody 39, 1:59.

Second Quarter Lou-Urrutia 42 pass from Brohm (Carmody kick), 14:32. Pitt-FG Lee 30, 9:12.

Lou-Barnidge 9 pass from Brohm (Carmody kick), 5:17. Third Quarter Lou-Kuhn 1 pass from Brohm (Car-

mody kick), 7:58. Lou—Spillman 13 run (Carmody kick), 6:00.

Fourth Quarter
Lou-FG Carmody 42, 12:56.
Pitt-Turner 21 pass from Palko (Lee kick), 11:34.
Lou-Douglas 75 pass from Brohm (Carmody kick), 5:54.
A-41,881.

Pitt 22 24-70 First downs Rushes-yards Passing Comp-Att-Int 31-162 337 21-29-0 328 32-51-3 Return Yards 3-31.0 2-40.5 Punts-Avg. Fumbles-Lost Penalties-Yards 5-50 28:34 Possession

**Individual Statistics** Rushing: Louisville, K.Smith 9-58, Bolen 8-44, Allen 7-24, Spillman 1-13, Brohm 1-9, Stripling 2-8, Spencer 2-4, D.Taylor 1-2. Pittsburgh, Stephens-Howling 12-57, Colliers 3-13, Collier 1-2, Palko 7-1, Pestano 1-(minus 3). 

Kinder 1-1-0-21. Recelving: Louisville, Urrutia 7-144, Douglas 4-132, Barnidge 2-24, Spill-man 2-7, Kuhn 2-3, K.Smith 2-3, D.Tay-lor 1-21, Stripling 1-3. Pittsburgh, Kinder 11-77, Pestano 6-70, Turner 4-85, Stephens-Howling 4-49, Collies 2-40, Buches 2-24, McGee 1-4, Collier 1-3, Dordor 1-3. 3, Porter 1-3.

No. 12 Boise St. 38, Nevada 7 3 14 14 7 - 38 0 0 7 0 - 7

First Quarter Boi—FG Montgomery 28, 2:59. Second Quarter Boi-I.Johnson 6 run (Montgomery

Boi—I.Johnson 4 run (Montgomery

EAST
Bloomsburg 21, West Chester 20
Cincinnati 26, Connecticut 23
Louisville 48, Pittsburgh 24
Massachusetts 35, Lafayette 14
Rutgers 38, Syracuse 7
South Florida 24, West Virginia 19
St. John Fisher 27, Springfield 21

Appalachian St. 45, Coastal Carolina 28 Florida 21, Florida St. 14 Georgia 15, Georgia Tech 12 Mississippi 20, Mississippi 51 T7 New Hampshire 41, Hampton 38 North Carolina 45, Duke 44 South Carolina 45, Duke 44 South Carolina 31, Clemson 28 Southern U. 21, Grambling 5t. 17 Tennessee 17, Kentucky 12 Troy 21, Middle Tennessee 20 UCF 31, UAB 22 Virginia Tech 17, Virginia 0 Wake Forest 38, Maryland 24

Oklahoma 27, Oklahoma St. 21 Rice 31, SMU 27

FAR WEST
Arizona St. 28, Arizona 14
BYU 33, Utah 31
Boise St. 38, Nevada 7
Montana 31, McNeese St. 6
Montana St. 31, Furman 13
New Mexico 41, San Diego St. 14
New Mexico St. 42, Utah St. 20
San Jose St. 28, Idaho 13
Southern Cal 44, Notre Dame 24
TCU 45, Colorado St. 14
UC Davis 37, San Diego 27

MIDWEST
Cent. Michigan vs. Ohio, MAC championship at De-

Saturday's games Southern Miss or East Carolina at Houston, C-USA championship, 8 p.m. EAST

Georgia Tech vs. Wake Forest, ACC championship at lacksonville, Fla., 1 p.m. (ABC) Connecticut at Louisville, TBA

Rutgers at West Virginia, TBA
San Diego at Monmouth, N.J., Noon
Army vs. Navy at Philadelphia, 2:30 p.m.
SOUTH

Thursday's game

troit, 7:30 p.m.

SOUTHWEST

**FAR WEST** 

**SCORES** 

Saturday's scores EAST

SOUTH

Alcorn St. at Grambling St., 2 p.m. Louisiana-Monroe at Louisiana-Lafayette, 5 p.m. Arkansas vs. Florida, SEC championship at Atlanta, 6

p.m. Southern Miss vs. Houston, CUSA Championship Troy at Fla. International, 7 p.m. MIDWEST Nebraska vs. Oklahoma, Big 12 championship at

Kansas City, 8 p.m. SOUTHWEST Air Force at TCU, 4:30 p.m. FAR WEST

FAR WEST
Stanford at California, 3 p.m.
Louisiana Tech at New Mexico St., 3 p.m.
Southern Cal at UCLA, 4:30 p.m.
Fresno St. at San Jose St., 6 p.m.
Colorado St. at San Diego St., 8 p.m.
Oregon St. at Hawaii, 11:05 p.m.

**NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs** First Round Saturday Massachusetts 35, Lafayette 14

Massachusetts 35, Lafayette 14
New Hampshire 41, Hampton 38
Montana State 31, Furman 13
Illinois State 24, Eastern Illinois 13
Montana 31, McNeese State 6
Southern Illinois 36, Tennessee-Martin 30
Appalachian State 45, Coastal Carolina 28
Youngstown St. 35, James Madison 31
Ouarterfinals

Quarterfinals
Saturday, Dec. 2
Appalachian St. (11-1) vs. Montana State (8-4), TBA
Illinois State (9-3) vs. Youngstown State (10-2), TBA
Massachusetts (11-1) vs. New Hampshire (9-3), TBA
Montana (11-1) vs. Southern Illinois (9-3), TBA

**NCAA Division II Playoffs** 

Second Round
Saturday
Shepherd 31, Merrimack 7
Bloomsburg 21, West Chester 20
Grand Valley State 35, South Dakota 17
Delta State 24, North Carolina Central 17
North Alabama 38, Newberry 20
Northwest Missouri State 27, Midwestern State 0
Chadron State 43. West Texas A&M 17 Chadron State 43, West Texas A&M 17 North Dakota 38, Nebraska-Omaha 35

Quarterfinals Saturday, Dec. 2 Grand Valley State (12-0) vs. North Dakota (11-1), TBA Delta State (11-2) vs. North Alabama (11-0), TBA Shepherd (11-0) vs. Bloomsburg (11-1), TBA

Northwest Missouri State (12-0) vs. Chadron State

Georgia safety Kelin Johnson celebrates after the Bulldogs defeated Georgia Tech, 15-12, on Saturday in Athens, Ga.

Possession

Receiving: Oklahoma, M.Johnson 2-19, Finley 2-17, Zaslaw 1-16, Iglesias 1-13, Kelly 1-12. Oklahoma St., D'Woods 6-95, Bowman 6-80, Petti-grew 2-40, Toston 2-11, Parks 1-17.

No. 15 Rutgers 38, Syracuse 7

Syracuse 0 0 0 7 - 7 Rutgers 14 7 7 10 - 38

First Quarter Rut—Rice 10 run (Ito kick), 9:58. Rut—Britt 38 pass from Teel (Ito kick), 6:57.

Second Quarter Rut—Britt 28 pass from Teel (Ito kick),

**Third Quarter** Rut—Leonard 2 run (Ito kick), 7:55.

Fourth Quarter
Rut—FG Ito 32, 11:49.
Syr—Nesheiwat 14 pass from Robinson (Shadle kick), 7:44.
Rut—Leonard 2 run (Ito kick), :08.
A—43,791.

6-42.5

5-49 25:17

Rushing: Syracuse, Brinkley 12-51, Robinson 5-31, Carter 9-25, Patterson Jr. 4-10, Chiara 1-5. Rutgers, Rice 23-107, Leonard 19-106, Teel 1-2, Young

**Passing:** Syracuse, Patterson Jr. 7-16-1-49, Robinson 3-3-0-20. Rutgers, Teel

10-15-0-146. Recelving: Syracuse, Ferron 2-16, Moss III 2-16, Chiara 2-9, Nesheiwat 1-14, Kapalanga 1-8, Robinson 1-4, Carter 1-2. Rutgers, Britt 4-94, Leonard 4-27, SJohnson 1-23, C.Har-

Third Quarter Geo—To.Taylor 29 fumble return (Ely-Kelso kick), 3:10. GaT—FG Bell 24, :16.

Fourth Quarter
GaT-Choice 10 run (run failed), 8:50.
Geo-Massaquoi 4 pass from
Stafford (Massaquoi pass from

GaT

12 35-146 42

6-22-2

Geo

18 37-84 171 16-29-0

0 3 3 6 -12 0 0 7 8 -15

Georgia 15, No. 16 Georgia Tech 12 Georgia Tech 0 3 3

Second Quarter GaT-FG Bell 35, 11:05

Stafford), 1:45. A-92,746.

First downs

Rushes-yards Passing Comp-Att-Int Return Yards Punts-Avg. Fumbles-Lost

18 44-217

146 10-15-0

First downs 11 Rushes-yards 31-122

Comp-Att-Int Return Yards Prints-Aver

**Individual Statistics** 

Punts-Avg.

Possession

10-15-0-146.

ris 1-2.

OkSt

20 39-119

29:08

77 243 7-11-0 17-31-0

5-41.8 4-44.3

Penalties-Yards

Penalties-Yards

26:14 33:46

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Georgia Tech, Choice 23-146,
C.Johnson 1-10, Ball 11-(minus 10).
Georgia, Lumpkin 18-51, Ware 11-41,
Stafford 4-0, Team 4-(minus 8).
Pacelage Cognicia Tech Pall 6-23, 24, 24

**Passing:** Georgia Tech, Ball 6-22-2-42. Georgia, Stafford 16-29-0-171.

Receiving: Georgia Tech, Dunlap 2-15, C.Johnson 2-13, J.Johnson 1-9, Choice

1-5. Georgia, Massaquoi 6-46, Milner 3-33, Harris 2-39, Raley 2-21, Lump-kin 2-13, Ware 1-19.

Virginia 0000 — 0 Virginia Tech 07100 — 17

VT—Royal 49 pass from Glennon (Pace kick), :31. A—66,233.

8-42.1

Individual Statistics Rushing: Virginia, Snelling 13-21, J.Sewell 8-20, Ogletree 1-6, Team 1-(minus 1). Virginia Tech, K.Lewis 19-79, Bell 14-41, Glennon 7-31, Jefferson 1-3, E.Lewis 2-3, Allen 1-2, Pickle 1-

(minus 3). **Passing:** Virginia, J.Sewell 10-21-1-66.

Virginia Tech, Glennon 12-18-1-146. **Receiving:** Virginia, Snelling 3-11, Ogletree 2-31, Mines 2-19, Stupar 2-5, Peerman 1-0. Virginia Tech, Royal

First Quarter Md—Lattimore 12 run (Ennis kick),

Md—Lattimore 12 run (Ennis Rick), 10:16. Wake—Harris 2 run (Swank kick), 6:11.

Second Quarter Wake—Moore 19 run (Swank kick),

14:20. Wake – Idlette 49 pass from Skinner (Swank kick), 7:42. Md – Ball 1 run (Ennis kick), 4:40.

Third Quarter Wake—Harris 3 run (Swank kick),

Fourth Quarter Md—I.Williams 5 pass from Hollen-bach (Ennis kick), 12:54.

Wake—Harris 3 run (Sw 10:03. Md—FG Ennis 26, 6:37. Wake—FG Swank 36, :21.

1an 3-9, Wi gan 2-24. Clowney 1-12.

No. 20 Wake Forest 38,

Maryland 24

Wake Forest Maryland

45-156 146 12-18-1

26 5-46.6 1-0

No. 17 Virginia Tech 17, Virginia 0

Second Quarter VT—Bell 1 run (Pace kick), :39.

Third Quarter VT—FG Pace 23, 9:24.

First downs 5 Rushes-yards 23-46 Passing 66 Comp-Att-Int 10-21-1

Penalties-Yards 6-45 Possession 22:44

**Individual Statistics** 

Return Yards

Punts-Avg. Fumbles-Lost

Possession

Seminans
Sunday, Dec. 10
Grand Valley St.-North Dakota winner vs. Delta St.N. Alabama winner, 5:30 p.m. or 7 p.m.
Shepherd-Bloomsburg winner vs. NW Missouri St.Chadron St. winner, 5:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 TBD, Noon

**NCAA Division III Playoffs** 

Saturday
Mount Union 35, Wheaton, Ill. 3
Capital 41, North Central 13
Rowan 21, Wilkes 14
St. John Fisher 27, Springfield 21
Wesley 37, Carnegie Mellon 0
Wisconsin-Whitewater 24, Wisconsin-La Crosse 21
Mary Hardin-Baylor 30, Washington & Jefferson 27 St. John's, Minn. 21, Whitworth 3

Quarterfinals Saturday, Dec. 2 Mount Union (12-0) vs. Capital (11-1), Noon or 1 p.m. Rowan (9-2) vs. St. John Fisher (11-1), Noon or 1 p.m. Wesley (12-0) vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor (10-2), Noon or 1 p.m. Wisconsin-Whitewater (12-0) vs. St. John's, Minn.

(11-1), Noon, 1 or 3 p.m. Semifinals

Seminals
Saturday, Dec. 9
Mount Union-Capital winner vs. Rowan-St. John
Fisher winner, TBA
Wesley-Mary Hardin-Baylor winner vs. WisconsinWhitewater-St. John's, Minn. winner, TBA Championship Saturday, Dec. 16 TBD, 4 p.m.

**NAIA Football Playoffs** 

Quarterfinals
Saturday
Bethel, Tenn. 42, Saint Francis, Ind. 35
Sioux Falls, S.D. 37, Morningside, Iowa 7
St. Xavier, Ill. 14, Carroll, Mont. 7
Missouri Valley 33, Northwestern Iowa 26
Semifinals

Fourth Quarter BYU—Harline 4 pass from Jo.Beck (kick blocked), 13:15. BYU—Coats 2 pass from Jo.Beck (J.McLaughlin kick), 3:23. Wake-Belton 1 run (Swank kick), 7:21. A-51,500.

Wake First downs 22 Rushes-yards Passing Comp-Att-Int Return Yards Punts-Avg. Fumbles-Lost Penalties-Yards Possession 57-296 125 33-194 182 10-13-1 46 14-26-3 3-34.7 1-0 4-34 35:13

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Wake Forest, Moore 27-165,
Marion 4-43, Harris 13-42, Skinner 430, Morton 2-12, Belton 4-6, Idlette 11, Team 2-(minus 3). Maryland, Lattimore 23-119, Ball 6-64, Heyward-Bey
1-9, Hollenbach 3-2.
Passing: Wake Forest, Skinner 10-131-125, Maryland, Hollenbach 14-26-3182.

182. Receiving: Wake Forest, Idlette 4-64, Moore 3-33, Morton 2-11, Tereshins-ki 1-17. Maryland, I.Williams 3-65, Heyward-Bey 3-37, Haynos 2-33, Ball 2-13, Oquendo 2-11, Goode 1-19, Jack-son 1-4.

No. 21 BYU 33, Utah 31 BYU Utah 14 0 0 19 - 33 0 10 14 7 - 31 First Quarter BYU—Man.Tonga 1 run (J.McLaugh-lin kick), 10:38.

BYU—Harline 36 pass from Jo.Beck (J.McLaughlin kick), 6:48. Second Quarter
Utah—Casteel 18 pass from Weddle
(Sakoda kick), 9:18.
Utah—FG Sakoda 24, :00.

Third Quarter
Utah—Wilson 57 pass from Ratliff
(Sakoda kick), 8:24.
Utah—Sampson 4 pass from Ratliff

Utah—Sampson 4 pass from Ratliff (Sakoda kick), 1:41.

Possession 29:43 30:17
Individual Statistics
Rushing: BVU, C.Brown 12-45, Vakapuna 5-6, Jo.Beck 5-2, Man.Tonga 2-1. Utah, Casteel 4-34, Weddel 7-24, Sakoda 1-18, Poston 6-15, Mack 2-10, S.smith 1-4, Ratliff 12-(minus 7).
Passing: BVU, Jo.Beck 28-43-0-375, Team 0-1-0-0. Utah, Ratliff 24-39-0-358, Weddle 1-1-0-18, Team 0-1-0-0. Receiving: BVU, Harline 7-118, Coats 6-80, C.Brown 4-31, Collie 3-53, Mahuita 3-32, Jacobson 2-35, Allen 1-11, Man.Tonga 1-8, Vakapuna 1-7. Utah, Richards 8-79, Casteel 5-100, Godfrey 3-39, Brown 3-24, Hernandez 2-52, Wilson 1-57, S.Smith 1-12, Poston 1-9, Sampson 1-4.

Utah—Casteel 19 pass from Ratliff (Sakoda kick), 1:19.

BYU—Harline 11 pass from Jo.Beck (run failed), :00. A—45,330.

24-54

28-44-0

First downs

First downs Rushes-yards Passing Comp-Att-Int Return Yards Punts-Avg. Fumbles-Lost Penalties-Yards Possession

Utah

33-98

25-41-0

**South Carolina 31** No. 24 Clemson 28
South Carolina 7 7 14 3 -31
Clemson 14 7 7 0 -28

Clem-Ford 76 pass from Proctor (Dean kick), 11:08.

-Mitchell 1 run (Succop kick),

Clem—Spiller 80 run (Dean kick), 5:19.

Stuckey 2-(minus 3), Proctor 6-(mi-

nus 25).

Passing: South Carolina, Mitchell 23-36-3-268, Beecher 1-1-0-16. Clemson, Proctor 13-19-1-191.

Receiving: South Carolina, S.Rice 8-103, McKinley 5-66, F.Brown 4-30, Whiteside 3-42, Mi.Davis 1-18, C.Boyd 1-9, Stafford 1-9, Edwards 1-7. Clemson, Stuckey 4-47, Hunter 4-35, Spiller 2-17, Ford 1-76, Kelly 1-9, Grisham 1-7.

Mississippi 20, Mississippi St. 17 Mississippi St. 0 10 0 7 -17 Mississippi 7 3 3 7 -20

-C.Boyd 1 run (Succop kick).

Clem—McKissic 82 interception re-

Third Quarter Clem—Spiller 31 run (Dean kick), 9:48. SC—Mi.Davis 1 run (Succop kick), 6:14.

6:14. SC-Mi.Davis 9 run (Succop kick), 4:19.

28 35-208 284 24-37-3

1-38.0

5-35 32:57

Rushing: South Carolina, C.Boyd 16-106, Mi.Davis 12-69, Mitchell 7-33. Clemson, Spiller 10-155, Merri-weather 3-23, Davis 11-19, Ford 1-12,

Clem

33-181

191 13-19-1

82 5-44.4

turn (Dean kick), :08.

Fourth Quarter SC—FG Succop 35, 7:51.

A-83,000.

First downs Rushes-yards Passing Comp-Att-Int Return Yards Punts-Ava

Punts-Avg. Fumbles-Lost

Possession

Penalties-Yards

**Individual Statistics** 

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Mississippi St., Dixon 25-125, Ju.Williams 7-24, Thornton 1-12, Hart 1-1, Conner 1-(minus 10). Mississippi, Green-Ellis 17-37, McSwain 2-15, Schaeffer 3-5, Cook 2-4, Hall 1-0, Adams 2-(minus 3).
Passing: Mississippi St., Conner 16-31-1-162, Team 0-3-0-0. Mississippi, Schaeffer 9-19-0-131, Adams 1-3-0-11, Hall 0-1-0-0. 11, Hall 0-1-0-0.

Recelving: Mississippi St., Butler 4-49, Dixon 3-22, Burks 2-25, Prosser 2-24, Husband 2-17, J.Smith 1-9, Ju.Williams 1-9, Long 1-7. Mississipi, McSwain 3-29, Hodge 2-31, Wallace 1-38, Hardy 1-23, Hough 1-12, Lane 1-12, Green-Ellis 1-(minus 3).

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First Quarter Miss—Hardy 23 pass from Schaeffer (Shene kick), 11:02.

Second Quarter
MSSt-FG Carlson 41, 12:59.
Miss-FG Shene 22, 8:30.
MSSt-Dixon 2 run (Carlson kick), 2:55.

Fourth Quarter
Miss—Green 47 punt return (Shene kick), 3:29.

MSSt—Husband 8 pass from Conner (Carlson kick), 2:20. A–57,658.

MSSt

35-152 162

162 142 16-34-1 10-23-0 38 105 5-37.6 6-39.7 0-0 0-0 4-25 7-60 33:15 26:45

27-58

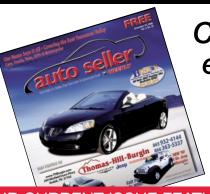
Third Quarter Miss—FG Shene 20, 2:57.

First downs

Rushes-yards Passing Comp-Att-Int Return Yards

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# **Amato's future uncertain after loss to East Carolina**

As the celebration began for East Carolina, Chuck Amato stood on the opposite sideline and watched the final seconds of North Carolina State's disappointing season dwindle away.

The question now is whether it's also the end of his tenure at his alma mater.

James Pinkney threw for 220 yards and connected with Aundrae Allison for a long touchdown just before halftime to lead the Pirates past the Wolfpack 21-16 on Saturday night, bolstering East Carolina's bowl hopes while further fueling speculation about Amato's job security.

Pinkney also threw a short TD pass to Jay Sonnhalter in the first half for the Pirates (7-5), while Brandon Fractious ran for 85 of his 92 yards after halftime and scored a late touchdown to seal the win. That sent the Wolfpack (3-9) into the offseason with seven straight losses, leaving Amato's future here murky at best.

Amato has a 49-37 record and five bowl appearances in seven seasons, but his program has had two losing seasons in the three years since four-year starter Philip Rivers headed to the NFL.

When asked what's next for him at N.C. State, Amato said he had not heard anything official.

"What can I say?" Amato said. "It's not in my hands. I mean, you'll have to ask somebody in administration."

North Carolina 45, Duke 44: Brandon Tate returned a punt 54 yards for the go-ahead touchdown and Kentwan Balmer blocked an extra point that would have forced overtime, giving visiting North Carolina (3-9, 2-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) over Duke in John Bunting's final game as the Tar Heels' coach.

The Blue Devils (0-12, 0-8) lost their 20th consecutive game and haven't beaten a I-A team in more than two years.

Missouri 42, Kansas 17: Chase Daniel threw for a career-best 356 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Tigers (8-4, 4-4 Big 12) over the visiting Jayhawks (6-



GERRY BROOME/ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Carolina's Hakeem Nicks, left, is covered closely by Duke's Deonto McCormick. The Tar Heels defeated the Blue Devils 45-44 in coach John Bunting's farewell game.

6, 3-5).

Cincinnati 26, Connecticut 23: Derrick Stewart caught nine passes for 166 yards, including a 50-yard reception with about a minute left to set up the winning field goal as the Bearcats (7-5, 4-3 Big East) beat the Huskies (4-7, 1-5) at East Hartford, Conn. Kevin Lovell booted four field goals, including the game-winning 29-yarder with 10 seconds

Southern Miss 42, Marshall 7: Jeremy Young threw two touchdowns and ran for another as Southern Mississippi won the Conference USA East Division title with a victory against visiting Marshall.

Southern Miss (8-4, 6-2 C-USA) advances to the conference championship game against West Division leader Houston. The Golden Eagles beat Houston 31-27 earlier in the season.

Marshall (5-7, 4-4) needed a win to become bowl eligible, but couldn't get into an offensive rhythm, turning the ball over five times and watching its season come to an end.

Rice 31, SMU 27: Jarett Dillard scored three touchdowns and the Owls (7-5, 6-2 C-USA) secured their first bowl appearance since 1961 with a win over visiting Southern Methodist (6-6,

Central Florida 31, UAB 22: Kyle Israel completed 19 of 22 passes for 270 yards and two touchdowns and ran for the gameclinching touchdown as Central Florida defeated Alabama-Birmingham in Orlando, Fla.

Israel helped take UCF (4-8, 3-5 C-USA) to a 21-0 lead with touchdown passes of 42 and 20 yards to Mike Walker, who had seven receptions for 132 yards.

UAB (3-9, 2-6) cut the deficit to 24-22 and had a chance to tie the game after Chris Felder returned a fumble 44 yards for a touchdown.

Florida Atlantic 31, Florida Inter**national 0:** Rusty Smith passed for two touchdowns to lead Florida Atlantic past Florida International (0-11 and 0-6 Sun Belt) in Miami. The Owls (5-7, 4-3) finished with 361 total offense before 9,655 fans at Dolphin Sta-

New Mexico 41, San Diego St. 14: Rodney Ferguson ran for a career-high 210 yards and two touchdowns and the Lobos (6-6, 4-4 Mountain West Conference) scored 24 first-quarter points off three interceptions and beat the visiting Aztecs (2-9, 2-

The win likely assured the Lobos of an invitation to the inaugural New Mexico Bowl.

New Mexico State 42, Utah State 20: Chase Holbrook set two school records and the visiting New Mexico State (3-8, 1-6 Western Athletic Conference) snapped a 21-game losing streak against Division I-A schools by beating Utah State (1-11, 1-7).

Arizona St. 28, Arizona 14: Rudy Carpenter threw three touchdown passes and Ryan Torain rushed for 139 yards, and the Sun Devils (7-5, 4-5 Pac-10) clinched a bowl berth with a victory over archrival Arizona (6-6, 4-5) in Tucson.

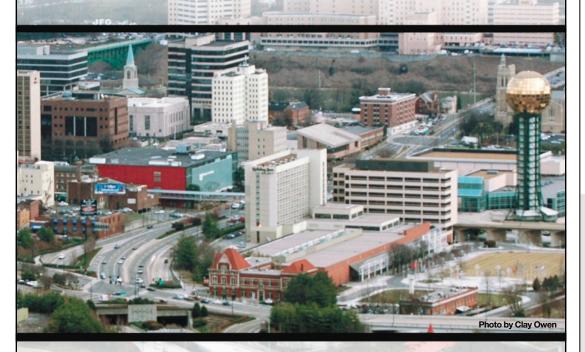
San Jose St. 28, Idaho 13: Patrick Perry rushed for just 64 yards but scored three times as he led the visiting Spartans (7-4, 4-3 Western Athletic Conference) over Idaho (4-8, 3-5).

UC Davis 37, San Diego 27: Jon Grant completed 25 passes for 348 yards and three touchdowns to help UC Davis (6-5) snap an 18-game winning streak by San Diego (10-1).

One For The Road: Larry Coker will have one more game as coach of Miami, after the Hurricanes qualified for the postseason with Virginia's 17-0 loss to No. 17 Virginia Tech. Coker was fired Friday after going 59-15 in six seasons with Miami. The ACC has tie-ins with eight bowls, so the Hurricanes are assured of competing in a bowl game for the ninth straight season.

Record Set: Danny Woodhead of Chadron State ran for 252 yards and scored four touchdowns in the Eagles' 43-17 drubbing of West Texas A&M in the NCAA Division II playoffs. Woodhead became the all-division single season rushing leader with 2,740 yards.

# **Headlines to Bottom Lines**



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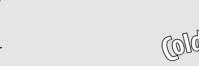
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