

SoCon Football Roundup....

Written by Staff Reports

Sunday, 09 September 2012 08:42

The Citadel 23, #3 Georgia Southern 21

Senior kicker Thomas Warren knocked home a 37-yard field goal with 35.5 seconds left in the game to lift The Citadel to a 23-21 Southern Conference football victory over No. 3 Georgia Southern in the league opener for both teams at

Johnson Hagood Stadium Saturday night. The Eagles (1-1, 0-1 SoCon) had a chance to win the game as time ran off the clock, but after a high snap, Ryan Nowicki's 31-yard field goal try went wide left. The play was set up thanks to a 53-yard kickoff return by J.J. Wilcox.

Elon 34, N.C. Central 14

The Elon University football won its 2012 home opener on Saturday night, Sept. 10 at Rhodes Stadium, as the Phoenix claimed a 34-14 victory over the visiting North Carolina Central Eagles on Hall of Fame Weekend. Senior quarterback Thomas Wilson completed 13-of-18 passes for 178 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the win, as the Phoenix offense went for 229 yards.

Samford 34, West Alabama 6

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The Samford offense rolled up 452 yards, and the Bulldog defense forced four turnovers in a 34-6 non-conference football victory over West Alabama Saturday night at Seibert Stadium. Samford was led offensively by Fabian Truss, rushing 16 times for 82 yards and two touchdowns. Jeremiaha Gates rushed 14 times for 50 yards and a touchdown. Andy Summerlin completed 21-of-27 passes for 190 yards and an interception. Chris Cephus had six receptions for 65 yards, while Kelsey Pope caught six passes for 54 yards.

Defensively for Samford, Jaquiski Tartt had two interceptions and a fumble recovery to go along with his five tackles. Alvin Hines II also had an interception and five tackles. Darion Sutton and Brandon Nettles shared the team lead in tackles with seven each. The Bulldog defense had a combined five sacks and nine tackles for a loss.

#13 Wofford 82, Lincoln (Pa.) 0

On Saturday night at Gibbs Stadium, the Wofford football team defeated Lincoln 82-0. Eight different Terriers accounted for touchdowns as Wofford scored the second most points in school history on the way to the largest margin of victory ever. The Terriers open the season 2-0 and Lincoln is 0-2. For Wofford, the offense had 602 total yards and the defense limited the Lions to 179 total yards. The Terriers were led by Ray Smith with rushing 88 yards and Nick Crocker with 66 rushing yards, with both scoring touchdowns. Brody Hingst and Eric Breitenstein had two rushing touchdowns each, while Michael Harpe caught two touchdown passes.

Coastal Carolina 47, Furman 45 (3OT)

DeMario Bennett hauled in a 26-yard touchdown strike in triple overtime and then tallied a two-point conversion on a reverse to help Coastal Carolina hold off Furman, 47-45, at rain-soaked Paladin Stadium Saturday evening. After Bennett's tallies put Coastal Carolina up, 47-39, Furman's Hank McCloud scored on a 3-yard run to cut the lead to 47-45, but Furman true freshman quarterback Reese Hannon's game-tying, two-point pass attempt failed on the game's final play. The contest marked Furman's first overtime game since 2007 and seventh in program history.

Jacksonville State 27, Chattanooga 24

The Chattanooga Mocs (0-2) dropped a 27-24 decision at Jacksonville State (1-1) Saturday evening on Burgess-Snow Field. UTC tied the game at 24 with 39 seconds left, only to see the Gamecocks kick a 37-yard field goal to win as time expired. The Mocs trailed 24-16 with 2:52 to go in the game. They got a big play on the second snap of the drive as Jacob Huesman found Faysal Shafaat for a 28-yard catch-and-run across midfield to the JSU 49.

Seven plays later, UTC faced a do-or-die, fourth-and-five on the JSU 34, with 1:01 to play. Huesman found Ron Moore streaking across the middle for 16 yards and a first down. On the very next snap, Huesman and Moore continued their fourth quarter symmetry with an 18-yard touchdown hookup.

That made it 24-22 Gamecocks. Despite a high snap, Huesman made a quick handoff to Keon

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Williams who bulled into the end zone for the two-point conversion. Chattanooga squibbed the ensuing kickoff with Gabriel Chambers taking the ball at the JSU 11. He almost broke it going 34 yards before getting tackled by kicker Nick Pollard at the JSU 45.

Four plays later, the Gamecocks faced second and 10 at the Mocs' 33 with six ticks left on the clock. They decided to run one more play, a run up the middle. DaMarcus James broke loose for 13 yards, breaking tackles down to the UTC 20 as time seemed to expire. One second was put back on the clock, setting up a 37-yard field goal attempt that Griffin Thomas drilled through the uprights for the 27-24 win.

Huesman racked up 347 yards of total offense in his first collegiate start. He ran for 166 yards on 21 carries and completed 18 of 30 for 181 yards in the air. He accounted for all three Mocs touchdowns - one with his feet and two with his arm. His 166 rushing yards are the second-most by a quarterback in school history and the second-most by a freshman in the UTC record books.

Chattanooga rushed for 241 yards on 50 rushes. Williams ran 19 times for 51 yards. Tommy Hudson had a game-high seven catches (34 yards), while Moore added four receptions for 55 yards, all in the fourth quarter.

The Gamecocks were equal to the task in the running game with 216 yards on 37 totes. After just 33 yards in the first quarter, JSU had 183 in the final three averaging a touch more than seven yards per carry.

Marshall 52, Western Carolina 24

Eddie Sullivan rushed for two touchdowns and threw for a third on Saturday evening as Western Carolina dropped a 52-24 decision to Marshall at Joan C. Edwards Stadium. The Thundering Herd scored 21 points in both the second and third quarters to post their fifth-straight victory in the all-time series, the first since 1996. Making his first start for the purple & gold, Sullivan completed 19-of-40 passes for 191 yards while also pacing five backs with 10 carries for 50 yards, twice finding the end zone against his former team. A native of Boca Raton, Fla., Sullivan found seven different receivers with senior Jacoby Mitchell pulling down a career-best nine catches for 84 yards and a five-yard scoring strike to lead the way.

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Photo Courtesy: Ricky Anderson of The Citadel, SoCon Athletics