

Mocs, Huesman FINALLY Beat ASU

Written by Mike Kelly

Saturday, 02 November 2013 19:36

University of Tennessee-Chattanooga football coach Russ Huesman has to be the happiest man in the world. His Mocs finally beat Appalachian State, and Huesman probably won't see the Mountaineers for quite a while, if ever again. Nakevion Lesley's 28-yard interception return for a touchdown with 2:52 left to play handed Chattanooga a 35-28 win at Kidd Brewer Stadium on Saturday. It was Chattanooga's (7-2 overall; 5-1 Southern Conference) first win in Boone since 1984, and its first win against ASU since 2004, snapping an eight-game slide in the series.

It was also Huesman's first win against the Mountaineers in five tries. The win also moves Chattanooga into first place in the SoCon. The Mocs own a half-game lead on Samford, which lost to The Citadel 28-26 on Saturday, and Wofford, which had a bye week. The Mocs play at Samford on November 16.

"Obviously, the pick-six near the end of the game cost us the game," said ASU coach Scott Satterfield. "We did a great job coming back and driving down the field. We had third-and-two, fourth-and-two and didn't make the plays. Give credit to Chattanooga. They've got a good football team and they know how to grind it out and get these kinds of wins."

Quarterback Kam Bryant marched ASU (2-7; 2-4) to Chattanooga's nine-yard-line with 0:50 left. But the Mocs made a defensive stop when Bryant over threw a wide open Barrett Burns in the end zone.

"Our guys are fighting hard, and that's what I like about this team," Satterfield said. "We didn't finish the game like we wanted to, but I'm proud of the effort. They went into a zone it looked like on that final play. We had the man open, but unfortunately, we over threw (Barrett) on the play. That could have been the game-tying touchdown."

Bryant was 26-36 for 257 yards with a TD and that costly interception; freshman Marcus Cox had another stellar day. He had 31 touches, including 29 carries for 158 yards and three TDs. His one-yard run with 5:16 left in third quarter tied the game at 21-21.

"Chattanooga played a great game," Cox said. "They made the big plays when they had to. I felt we played good, but there's still some plays we have to execute on. They made some adjustments in the second half against our running game. They put three more people in the box. They were focused on stopping the run. When that happens, we can't let it affect us."

The teams battled through four ties. The last one coming with 7:07 left to play. Bryant hooked up with Tony Washington on a 20-yard scoring pass that tied the game at 28-28. Washington made a great catch and came down in bounds near the pile on for the game-tying score. That play capped off a five-play, 49-yard drive that took less than two minutes.

The Mountaineers had 424 yards offensively to 355 for the Mocs; but Chattanooga ran for 228 yards and was 3-3 on fourth-down attempts. ASU ran for 167 yards and was 0-2 on fourth-down attempts.

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"It tough to defend some of the stuff that happened today," Satterfield said. "They had a touchdown on a fake field goal try. Then on two punt attempts, they had a high snap and their kicker just got it away, and on the other one, the guy pulls down the high snap, runs for it, and barely makes the first down. They eventually scored on that drive. We have to have a guy there to make a stop and get them off the field."

The Mountaineers were 7-15 on third-down attempts Saturday, and they held the ball for 30:05. Malachi Jones was ASU's leading receiver with a career-high nine catches for 74 yards.

The Mocs fueled their rally with a 21-point fourth quarter. Quarterback Jacob Huesman had 259 yards offensively to pace the Mocs. He ran for 132 yards on 16 carries and scored a TD; he was 13-19 through the air for 127 yards and two TD passes.

"(Huesman) had the one big run at the start of the third quarter," Satterfield said. "But outside of that, I thought our defense did really well against him. What hurt us, he hit the two big pass plays on the outside. One was a double move on the outside, the other was an out route. Those are two big plays we can't give up. We've got to stay on top. Those plays resulted in two touchdowns."

Huesman hooked up with Terrell Robinson on a 31-yard strike with 12:49 left to play that gave the Mocs a short-lived 21-14 lead; he tossed a 29-yard strike to Xavier Borishade with 9:04 to go for a 28-21 advantage.

The Mountaineers travel to Athens, Ga., to play the Georgia Bulldogs next Saturday. Coverage begins at 10:30 a.m. on AM 1450, WATA and the Appalachian-IMG Sports Network.

NOTES: Appalachian State (2-7, 2-4 SoCon) lost to Chattanooga (7-2, 5-1 SoCon) for the first time since 2004, snapping Appalachian's eight-game winning streak in the series. The loss was only the Mountaineers' fourth in their last 29 meetings with UTC....The loss was Appalachian State's first at home to Chattanooga since 1983, snapping Appalachian's 14-game home winning streak over UTC. Appalachian State's last previous loss in the series was a 30-9 defeat at then-Conrad Stadium on Oct. 8, 1983 (Mack Brown's only season as Appalachian's head coach).....Appalachian State lost a home game in November for the first time since Nov. 30, 2002, when it dropped a 14-13 decision to Maine in the opening round of the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. Appalachian had won 18-straight November home games.....With the win, Chattanooga moved into first place in the Southern Conference standings, a half-game ahead of Samford (6-3, 4-1 SoCon) and Wofford (5-3, 4-1 SoCon).....Appalachian State freshman running back Marcus Cox rushed for 158 yards on 29 carries (5.4 avg.), good for his third-straight 100-yard rushing game and fourth in seven starts as a true freshman.....Cox's three rushing touchdowns are a career high.....With 44 receiving yards, Appalachian State senior wide receiver Andrew Peacock moved into sixth in school history with 1,909 career receiving yards, passing CoCo Hillary (1,906 yds. – 2007-10) on the program's all-time list.

Scoring Summary

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Score by Quarters 1 2 3 4 Total

Chattanooga 0 7 7 21 - 35

Appalachian State 7 7 7 7 - 28

1st

09:43 APP - Marcus Cox 4 yd run (Drew Stewart kick), 9-90 3:23 0 - 7

2nd

11:51 UTC - Jacob Huesman 7 yd run (Nick Pollard kick), 15-58 5:46 7 - 7

01:32 APP - Marcus Cox 1 yd run (Drew Stewart kick), 10-58 3:56 7 - 14

3rd

08:42 UTC - Derrick Craine 1 yd run (Nick Pollard kick), 11-75 4:01 14 - 14

05:16 APP - Marcus Cox 1 yd run (Drew Stewart kick), 11-68 3:20 14 - 21

4th

12:49 UTC - Terrell Robinson 31 yd pass from Jacob Huesman (Nick Pollard kick), 7-85 2:41 21 - 21

09:04 UTC - Xavier Borishade 29 yd pass from Jacob Huesman (Nick Pollard kick), 5-55 2:07 28 - 21

07:07 APP - Tony Washington 20 yd pass from Kameron Bryant (Drew Stewart kick), 5-49 1:48 28 - 28

02:52 UTC - Nakevion Leslie 28 yd interception return (Nick Pollard kick) 35 - 28

Team Statistics

FIRST DOWNS: ASU 23, UTC 18

RUSHING YARDS: ASU 167, UTC 228

PASSING YARDS: ASU 257, UTC 127

TOTAL YARDS: ASU 424, UTC 355

FUMBLES/LOST: ASU 0-0, UTC 0-0

PENALTY YARDS: ASU 6-50, UTC 3-14

TURNOVERS: ASU 1, UTC 1

TIME OF POSSESSION: ASU 30:05, UTC 29:55

THIRD-DOWN CONVERSIONS: ASU 7-15, UTC 6-14

FOURTH-DOWN CONVERSIONS: ASU 0-2, UTC 3-3

Individual Statistics

RUSHING:

ASU: COX 29-158-3TD

UTC: HUESMAN 16-132-TD

PASSING:

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ASU: BRYANT 26-36-257-I-TD

UTC: HUESMAN 13-19-127-2TD

RECEIVING:

ASU: JONES 9-74, PEACOCK 5-44, McELFRESH 4-47, WASHINGTON 3-48-TD

UTC: SHAFAT 3-31, ROBINSON 3-24-TD, BORISHADE 2-36-TD

Photo Courtesy: Marcus Cox, ASU Athletics