

WEEK THREE  
MIDDLE TENN ST AT UNIV GEORGIA

ATHENS, Ga. -- Jake Fromm threw three touchdown passes and Elijah Holyfield ran for 100 yards, each playing only the first half, as No. 3 Georgia overwhelmed Middle Tennessee 49-7 on Saturday.

Georgia led 42-7 at halftime. It was an impressive warmup for the Bulldogs’ stretch of seven straight Southeastern Conference games, beginning with next week’s visit to Missouri.

Georgia has started strong this season after winning its first SEC title since 2005 last year and losing to Alabama in the national championship game.

“We’ve created a standard the last couple of years, and now we’re owning it with players holding other players accountable,” coach Kirby Smart said.

There were clouds but no rain in the game that was moved up to a noon kickoff due to Tropical Storm Florence. The game originally was scheduled to be played Saturday night.

And the Bulldogs turned it into a rout quickly.

Freshman Justin Fields ran 15 yards for a touchdown late in the first half and threw a touchdowns pass in relief of Fromm. Jeremiah Holloman caught three passes for 90 yards, including an 11-yard scoring pass from Fromm in the first quarter. Holloman was one of five Georgia wide receivers to combine for six touchdowns.

Mecole Hardman had a touchdown catch and a 70-yard punt return touchdown, and Tyler Simmons had a 56-yard touchdown run.

Holyfield had a 66-yard gain as he ran for 100 yards on eight carries. He became the first player to run for 100 yards this season for Georgia (3-0), which continued to use a committee approach to replace the 2017 senior tandem of Sony Michel and Nick Chubb.

“It’s like a sign of a pretty good day,” Holyfield said of his first career 100-yard game. “So I had a pretty good day.”

Patrick Smith scored on a 41-yard pass from Brent Stockstill for the Blue Raiders (1-2). Smith had nine catches for 77 yards.

Middle Tennessee was held to 288 yards.

“They’re bigger than us, faster than us,” said Middle Tennessee coach Rick Stockstill. “We couldn’t create any separation at receiver. There were no openings; they just swallowed us up. That’s why they’re ranked where they’re ranked.”

D’Andre Swift started at tailback but didn’t return following the Bulldogs’ first two possessions. Swift stood on the sideline after running for 12 yards on four carries. Smart said he just wanted to look at other running backs.

Fromm was sharp, completing 10 of 12 passes for 128 yards. The sophomore almost committed a costly mistake on Georgia’s second possession when he held the ball too long, was almost sacked for a safety and fumbled near the Georgia goal line. Right guard Ben Cleveland recovered the fumble at the 2, setting up a punt.

Following a review, Middle Tennessee linebacker Khalil Brooks was called for targeting and ejected after leading with his helmet on a second-quarter hit that knocked off Fields’ helmet. The drive ended when Fields dropped back to pass before keeping the ball on the 15-yard scoring run.

THE TAKEAWAY

Middle Tennessee: The Blue Raiders committed far too many mistakes to have a chance for their first win in 16 tries against a Top 25 team. Most frustrating was an inability to score after taking possession at the Georgia 36 in the first quarter. Stockstill was sacked by Deandre Baker on third down before his fourth-down pass was picked off by Baker.

Georgia: Georgia showed good focus against an underdog opponent and again showed impressive depth, especially at receiver. Holloman, who had a 65-yard catch, and Simmons showed their big-play potential and Hardman had his third touchdown catch in three games.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The Bulldogs strengthened their hold on their No. 3 spot in the Top 25. Georgia topped 40 points for the third straight game, again proving itself to be worthy of its high ranking.

Final	1	2	3	4	T		
MTSU	0	7	0	0	7		
UGA	14	28	7	0	49		
Scoring Summary -----							
FIRST QUARTER			MTSU	UGA			
UGA TD 11:24							
Mecole Hardman 5 Yd pass from Jake Fromm (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)							
7 plays, 87 yards, 3:36							
UGA TD 4:02							
Jeremiah Holloman 11 Yd pass from Jake Fromm (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)							
5 plays, 49 yards, 2:00							
SECOND QUARTER			MTSU	UGA			
UGA TD 14:51							
Tyler Simmons 56 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)							
6 plays, 94 yards, 2:40 0							
UGA TD 7:19							
Mecole Hardman 70 Yd Punt Return (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)							
3 plays, 6 yards, 1:37							
MTSU TD 4:21							
Patrick Smith 41 Yd pass from Brent Stockstill (Crews Holt Kick)							
8 plays, 75 yards, 2:58							
UGA TD 2:14							
Riley Ridley 12 Yd pass from Jake Fromm (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)							
4 plays, 74 yards, 2:07							
UGA TD 0:23							
Justin Fields 15 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)							
5 plays, 59 yards, 0:54							
THIRD QUARTER			MTSU	UGA			
UGA TD 6:33							
Jayson Stanley 9 Yd pass from Justin Fields (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)							
10 plays, 90 yards, 4:36							
Team Stats		MTSU	UGA				
First Downs		14	23				
Total Yards		288	484				
Total Plays		68	56				
Avg Gain Per Play		4.2	8.6				
Net Yards Rushing		158	261				
Rushes		38	35				
Yards Per Rush		4.2	7.5				
Net Yards Passing		130	223				
Comp-Att		20-30	17-21				
Yards Per Pass		4.3	10.6				
Times Sacked		0	2				
Yds Lost To Sacks		0	-11				
Interceptions		1	0				
Punts		6	3				
Punt Average		46.0	46.0				
Penalties		3	7				
Penalty Yards		35	54				
Fumbles		1	1				
Fumbles Lost		1	0				
Possession		31:50	28:10				
Individual Stats							
RUSHING							
MTSU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
1 Terelle West	17	74	4.4	12	0		
Landon Board	7	30	4.3	16	0		
12 Brent Stockstill	5	19	3.8	11	0		
11 Brad Anderson	3	16	5.3	7	0		
18 John Turner	3	10	3.3	6	0		
44 Chaton Mobley	2	9	4.5	5	0		
16 Chase Cunningham	1	0	0.0	0	0		
UGA	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
13 Elijah Holyfield	8	100	12.5	66	0		
87 Tyler Simmons	1	56	56.0	56	1		
35 Brian Herrien	5	44	8.8	21	0		
1 Justin Fields	3	31	10.3	15	1		
16 Demetris Robertson	1	23	23.0	23	0		
7 D'Andre Swift	4	12	3.0	4	0		
10 Kearis Jackson	1	6	6.0	6	0		
24 Prather Hudson	2	2	1.0	1	0		
6 James Cook	5	1	0.2	4	0		
11 Jake Fromm	2	-11	-5.5	0	0		
PASSING							
MTSU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
12 Brent Stockstill	19	29	138	4.8	1	1	110.0
8 Ty Lee	1	1	-8	-8.0	0	0	32.8
18 John Turner	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
16 Chase Cunningham	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
UGA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
11 Jake Fromm	10	12	128	10.7	3	0	255.4
1 Justin Fields	6	8	71	8.9	1	0	190.8
17 Matthew Downing	1	1	24	24.0	0	0	301.6
RECEIVING							
MTSU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
37 Patrick Smith	9	77	8.6	41	1		
11 Brad Anderson	6	45	7.5	7	0		
81 CJ Windham	1	6	6.0	6	0		
1 Terelle West	1	5	5.0	5	0		
87 Gatlin Casey	1	4	4.0	4	0		
8 Ty Lee	1	1	1.0	1	0		
12 Brent Stockstill	1	-8	-8.0	0	0		
UGA	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
9 Jeremiah Holloman	3	90	30.0	65	1		
18 Isaac Nauta	4	47	11.8	20	0		
6 James Cook	2	37	18.5	24	0		
4 Mecole Hardman	4	21	5.3	7	1		
8 Riley Ridley	1	12	12.0	12	1		
2 Jayson Stanley	1	9	9.0	9	1		
89 Charlie Woerner	1	4	4.0	4	0		
35 Brian Herrien	1	3	3.0	3	0		
16 Demetris Robertson	0	0	-	-	0		
10 Kearis Jackson	0	0	-	-	0		
87 Tyler Simmons	0	0	-	-	0		