

WEEK NINE
UTAH AT UCLA

PASADENA, Calif. -- Zack Moss and Utah rushed their way to another big Pac-12 win.

Moss gained a career-high 211 yards on the ground and scored three touchdowns, helping the 23rd-ranked Utes beat UCLA 41-10 on Friday night.

"We got back to playing Utah football and we've been able to do a lot of good things," Moss said.

Britain Covey had 132 all-purpose yards and threw a touchdown pass for the Utes (6-2, 4-2), who won their fourth consecutive game. Armand Shyne ran for a touchdown and Matt Gay kicked two field goals.

Utah leads the Pac-12 South by one game over Southern California and holds the head-to-head tiebreaker over the Trojans with three conference games remaining. The Utes are the only team from the South that has not played in the conference title game.

Utah scored 28 straight points after falling behind 7-3 in the first quarter. Covey threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to tight end Cole Fotheringham off a reverse to make it 10-7 midway through the second quarter, and Moss had 1-yard touchdown runs in the second and third quarter.

"Some of those runs Zack made were sheer toughness and willpower," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said. "He's like a sledgehammer in between the tackles."

Shyne's 2-yard touchdown run made it 31-7 after Julian Blackmon picked off Wilton Speight, who started for UCLA the first time since sustaining a back injury in the season opener against Cincinnati.

Joshua Kelley ran for 90 yards and a touchdown, but the Bruins (2-6, 2-3) were unable to get their third straight win. Speight was 20 of 40 for 164 yards passing with two interceptions.

"I feel we got outplayed today," safety Adarius Pickett said. "We had some dropped balls on offense. Our special teams had a few penalties, and we didn't play too good."

Kelley had a 25-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-inches in the first quarter to give UCLA an early lead, but the Bruins defense could not keep Moss and Utah's rushing offense in check. Utah finished with 325 yards on the ground and averaged 6.5 yards per carry.

"We didn't tackle well in the first half, didn't tackle well in the second half," UCLA coach Chip Kelly said.

Joe Williams, who rushed for a school single-game record 332 yards at UCLA in 2016, had playfully warned Moss not to break his mark during a 41-28 win over USC last Saturday. Moss admitted he was thinking about the record after the Bruins allowed 289 yards rushing to Arizona, but he was more than satisfied with another Pac-12 win.

"Everyone is just flowing in the right direction and we need to, especially at the back end of the year," Moss said. "It's like we're fresh and everyone else is dead right now because we've worked so hard."

The only misstep for Utah occurred when safety Marquise Blair was ejected for targeting in the third quarter, meaning the senior will miss the first half at Arizona State. Blair made helmet-to-helmet contact with Speight when he was sliding at the end of an 11-yard run.

THE TAKEAWAY

Utah: The Utes avoided the letdown that has kept them from winning the Pac-12 South in previous seasons. Utah had followed home wins over Southern California in 2014 and 2016 with road losses, but there was no such slip-up this season.

UCLA: The Bruins still have work to do. Consecutive wins might have created the impression UCLA had turned the corner in Kelly's first season, but there were too many drops, penalties and missed tackles when Utah appeared vulnerable early on.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

With a fourth straight impressive win, Utah will be in the Top 25 for the second straight week. A resume that includes narrow losses to No. 15 Washington and No. 14 Washington State might also get a closer examination from voters.

TRICKY COVEY

Covey, a former high school quarterback, continues to make the most of every chance he gets to throw the ball. The sophomore is 3-of-3 passing for 71 yards and two touchdowns this season. He had a chance to add to that total on a double pass in the third quarter, but UCLA had the receiver covered and Covey took off for a 19-yard run.

"Trick play passes have a high percentage (of success) and I prefer to keep it that way," said Covey, who had five receptions for 47 yards.

MCCLUSKEY HONORED

Utah players and coaches wore decals remembering Utes runner Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old senior who was shot and killed on campus Monday night. A moment of silence for McCluskey was also held prior to the game.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UTAH	3	14	21	3	41
UCLA	7	0	3	0	10

Scoring Summary -----

	UTAH	UCLA
FIRST QUARTER		
UTAH FG 9:48		
Matt Gay 22 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, 1 yard, 0:51	3	0
UCLA TD 4:15		
Joshua Kelley 25 Yd Run (JJ Molson Kick)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 5:33	3	7
SECOND QUARTER		
UTAH TD 8:58		
Cole Fotheringham 7 Yd pass from Britain Covey (Matt Gay Kick)		
3 plays, 78 yards, 6:16	10	7
UTAH TD 4:28		
Zack Moss 1 Yd Run (Matt Gay Kick)		
7 plays, 36 yards, 2:49	17	7
THIRD QUARTER		
UTAH TD 11:45		
Zack Moss 1 Yd Run (Matt Gay Kick)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:15	24	7
UTAH TD 9:44		
Armand Shyne 2 Yd Run (Matt Gay Kick)		
4 plays, 32 yards, 1:18	31	7
UCLA FG 5:22		
JJ Molson 27 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 65 yards, 4:22	31	10
UTAH TD 1:19		
Zack Moss 5 Yd Run (Matt Gay Kick)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 4:03	38	10
FOURTH QUARTER		
UTAH FG 10:01		
Matt Gay 49 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 17 yards, 4:59	41	10

Team Stats	UTAH	UCLA
First Downs	26	17
Total Yards	470	291
Total Plays	72	66
Avg Gain Per Play	6.5	4.4
Net Yards Rushing	325	127
Rushes	50	26
Yards Per Rush	6.5	4.9
Net Yards Passing	145	164
Comp-Att	14-22	20-40
Yards Per Pass	6.6	4.1
Times Sacked	1	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-4	-10
Interceptions	1	2
Punts	2	5
Punt Average	47.5	45.8
Penalties	5	5
Penalty Yards	45	40
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	33:42	26:18

Individual Stats

RUSHING

UTAH	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
2 Zack Moss	26	211	8.1	60	3
4 TJ Green	5	32	6.4	12	0
1 Tyler Huntley	8	22	2.8	9	0
6 Armand Shyne	6	22	3.7	10	1
18 Britain Covey	1	19	19.0	19	0
15 Jason Shelley	2	11	5.5	8	0
32 Joey Wood	1	5	5.0	5	0
27 Mason Woodward	1	3	3.0	3	0

UCLA	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
27 Joshua Kelley	16	90	5.6	25	1
3 Wilton Speight	8	30	3.8	11	0
81 Caleb Wilson	1	4	4.0	4	0
19 Kazmeir Allen	1	3	3.0	3	0

PASSING

UTAH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
1 Tyler Huntley	13	21	138	6.6	0	1	107.6
18 Britain Covey	1	1	7	7.0	1	0	488.8
UCLA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
3 Wilton Speight	20	40	164	4.1	0	2	74.4

RECEIVING

UTAH	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
18 Britain Covey	5	47	9.4	17	0
25 Jaylen Dixon	2	24	12.0	19	0
7 Demari Simpkins	1	20	20.0	20	0
45 Samson Nacua	1	16	16.0	16	0
2 Zack Moss	2	14	7.0	11	0
80 Brant Kuithe	1	11	11.0	11	0
89 Cole Fotheringham	1	7	7.0	7	1
44 Jake Jackson	1	6	6.0	6	0

UCLA	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
81 Caleb Wilson	5	62	12.4	27	0
14 Theo Howard	6	51	8.5	24	0
10 Demetric Felton	4	28	7.0	9	0
9 Dymond Lee	2	12	6.0	8	0
27 Joshua Kelley	2	11	5.5	7	0
19 Kazmeir Allen	1	0	0.0	0	0