

WEEK SIX
AIR FORCE at NAVY

Navy stuns Air Force 34-25

ANNAPOLIS, Md. -- Malcolm Perry's confidence never wavered.

The Navy quarterback had taken a pounding and watched Air Force storm back from a double-digit deficit to take the lead.

In the end, the Midshipmen had some late-game heroics of their own. Perry had a 4-yard touchdown run with 23 seconds remaining to give the Midshipmen a stunning 34-25 victory over Air Force on Saturday. "The offense played well," Perry said. "We had a couple of mistakes here and there. But just keeping the mindset that we were going to win the game. Never let it leave our minds."

The Falcons scored 16 consecutive points in the final quarter and took the lead on a 1-yard run by Taven Birdow with 3:15 left.

However, Perry led an 11-play, 75-yard scoring drive to claim the victory in the first leg of the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. Navy linebacker Tony Brown returned a fumble 8 yards in the closing seconds to round out the scoring.

"We found a way to win," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "That is a great team win. We went back and forth. We needed to step up and we did."

Perry finished with 111 yards on 23 carries with a pair of touchdowns. He also completed 5 of 7 passes for 144 yards.

A fumble by Navy fullback Nelson Smith gave Air Force the ball on the Midshipmen 37 midway through the fourth quarter. The Falcons capitalized on a 1-yard plunge by quarterback DJ Hammond III that pulled them within 21-19 with 7:38 left in the game.

The Falcons (3-2) then put together a six-play, 72-yard scoring drive, capped by the scoring run by Birdow to take their first lead since the first quarter before the Midshipmen (3-1) rallied.

"We came here and played our hearts out," Falcons defensive tackle Jordan Jackson said. "We did not play good enough to win."

Air Force kicker Jake Koehnke converted all four of his field-goal opportunities, including a career-long 49-yard kick that pulled the Falcons to within 14-9.

Hammond had 71 yards on 12 carries. He also competed 10 of 25 pass attempts for 205 yards with an interception.

Jake Springer managed a key sack in the third quarter that gave Navy a short field, setting up the 20-yard scoring run by Perry that provided a 12-point margin.

The Midshipmen used an almost identical strategy to boost the lead to 14-3. Perry completed a 28-yard pass to Mychal Cooper and Smith capped the drive with a 3-yard scoring run.

"They made a few plays and some really fine plays, too," Air Force coach Troy Calhoun said about Navy.

The Commander-in-Chief's Trophy is presented annually to the winner of the football competition among the three major service academies -- Army West Point, Navy and Air Force. The Black Knights took home the crown the previous two years.

THE TAKEAWAY

Air Force: The Falcons have not won in Annapolis since 2011. The loss also takes them out of the running for the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. After averaging 34.6 points over the opening four games, Air Force never fully got into sync against Navy until the final quarter.

Navy: It was an uplifting win for the Midshipmen, who were routed by Air Force 35-7 last season in Colorado Springs. When the Falcons stacked the box, Perry showed he could be effective throwing the ball downfield to set up a couple of scores. The Midshipmen can win their first Commander-in-Chief's Trophy since 2015 with a victory over Army on Dec. 14.

BIG CROWD

The game had an announced attendance of 37,957 -- the fourth-largest crowd in the history of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It was also the eighth-consecutive time this matchup sold out in Annapolis.

CLEAN GAME

Air Force had just one penalty for 12 yards. Navy was penalized seven times for 52 yards.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
AFA	3	3	3	16	25
NAVY	0	14	7	13	34

Scoring Summary -----

	AFA	NAVY
FIRST QUARTER		
AFA FG 3:09 Jake Koehnke 42 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, 8 yards, 2:14	3	0
SECOND QUARTER		
NAVY TD 13:24 Nelson Smith 1 Yd Run (Bijan Nichols Kick)		
5 plays, 64 yards, 1:44	3	7
NAVY TD 7:39 Nelson Smith 3 Yd Run (Bijan Nichols Kick)		
8 plays, 66 yards, 3:52	3	14
AFA FG 2:17 Jake Koehnke 40 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 53 yards, 5:22	6	14
THIRD QUARTER		
AFA FG 12:34 Jake Koehnke 49 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 39 yards, 2:26	9	14
NAVY TD 6:36 Malcolm Perry 20 Yd Run (Bijan Nichols Kick)		
5 plays, 44 yards, 2:17	9	21
FOURTH QUARTER		
AFA FG 13:26 Jake Koehnke 26 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 68 yards, 3:16	12	21
AFA TD 7:38 Donald Hammond III 1 Yd Run (Jake Koehnke Kick)		
8 plays, 37 yards, 3:48	19	21
AFA TD 3:15 Taven Birdow 1 Yd Run (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)		
6 plays, 72 yards, 2:42	25	21
NAVY TD 0:23 Malcolm Perry 3 Yd Run (Bijan Nichols Kick)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 2:53	25	28
NAVY TD 0:00 Tony Brown 8 Yd Fumble Return		
4 plays, -10 yards, 0:22	25	34

Team Stats	AFA	NAVY
First Downs	15	16
Passes for First	9	6
Rushes for First	5	10
Penalties for First	1	0
Third Down Efficiency	5-17	4-11
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-3	1-1
Total Yards	344	376
Total Plays	71	58
Avg Gain Per Play	4.8	6.5
Net Yards Rushing	108	214
Rushes	45	50
Yards Per Rush	2.4	4.3
Net Yards Passing	236	162
Comp-Att	11-26	6-8
Yards Per Pass	9.1	20.3
Times Sacked	0	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-11
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	3	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	1	7
Penalty Yards	12	52
Fumbles	3	5
Fumbles Lost	2	3
Time of Poss	32:09	27:51

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
AIR FORCE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Donald Hammond III	12	77	6.4	1	42		
Taven Birdow	15	40	2.7	1	6		
Joshua Stoner	3	10	3.3	0	6		
Kadin Remsberg	9	9	1.0	0	3		
Christian Mallard	3	3	1.0	0	3		
Team	2	-3	-1.5	0	0		
Benjamin Waters	1	-5	-5.0	0	0		
Geraud Sanders	0	-23	0.0	0	0		
NAVY	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Malcolm Perry	23	111	4.8	2	20		
Nelson Smith	19	82	4.3	2	37		
Chance Warren	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Mychal Cooper	1	7	7.0	0	7		
CJ Williams	4	7	1.8	0	3		
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
Tazh Maloy	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
PASSING							
AIR FORCE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Donald Hammond	10	25	205	8.2	0	1	59.8
Chance Stevenson	1	1	41	41.0	0	0	100.0
NAVY	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Malcolm Perry	5	7	144	20.6	0	0	92.6
Chance Warren	1	1	18	18.0	0	0	79.6
RECEIVING							
AIR FORCE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Benjamin Waters	4	128	32.0	0	47		
Geraud Sanders	3	44	14.7	0	22		
Kade Waguespack	2	35	17.5	0	25		
Kadin Remsberg	1	29	29.0	0	29		
Daniel Morris	1	10	10.0	0	10		
NAVY	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Mychal Cooper	3	90	30.0	0	38		
CJ Williams	2	54	27.0	0	32		
Tazh Maloy	1	18	18.0	0	18		