Fromm helps No. 3 Georgia trounce Tennessee 43-14

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. -- Jake Fromm threw two touchdown passes, Georgia's defense delivered a dominant second-half performance and the No. 3 Bulldogs recovered from a slow start to beat Tennessee 43-14 on Saturday night.

Georgia (5-0, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) scored the final 33 points to earn its 15th straight victory over Eastern Division opponent. Georgia capped the onslaught when Tae Crowder scored on a 60-yard fumble return with 4:39 left after Eric Stokes sacked Brian Maurer to knock the ball loose. The Bulldogs haven't lost to an SEC East team since falling 24-10 to Florida on Oct. 29, 2016.

Fromm went 24 of 29 for 288 yards. Rodrigo Blankenship made field goals from 50, 34 and 27 yards to improve to 11 of 11 this season. Brian Herrien and D'Andre Swift combined to run for 160 yards and each had a 1-yard touchdown run.

Georgia trailed for most of the second quarter before scoring two touchdowns in the final two minutes of the first half to grab a 26-14 lead at the intermission. Georgia stayed in command the rest of the way.

Tennessee (1-4, 0-2) has lost its last six matchups with Football Bowl Subdivision teams and is off to its slowest start since 1988, when it dropped its first six games. Tennessee's lone win this season was a 45-0 blowout of Football Championship Subdivision program Chattanooga.

But the Volunteers made this one interesting for a while.

Tennessee freshman quarterback Brian Maurer made his first career start and sparked an offense that had stumbled and staggered through the first month of the season. After gaining just 239 yards in a 34-3 loss to No. 10 Florida two weeks ago, Tennessee matched that total by halftime Saturday.

Maurer electrified the crowd on Tennessee's second series as he executed a play-action pass to a wide-open Marquez Callaway, who made the catch around the Georgia 30 and raced to the end zone for a 73-yard touchdown.

The touchdown marked Tennessee's longest pass completion since Joshua Dobbs connected with Josh Malone on a 75-yarder against Kentucky in 2015.

Maurer gave Tennessee a 14-10 lead on the opening play of the second quarter with a 12-yard strike across the middle to Jauan Jennings.

Jennings had seven catches for 114 yards, and Callaway caught three passes for 105 yards. Maurer was 14 of 28 for 259 yards with an interception to go along with his two touchdowns.

Georgia took the lead for good 20-14 on Fromm's 3-yard touchdown pass to Lawrence Cager that put with 1:59 left in the half. After Tennessee drove into field-goal range, Brent Cimaglia's 47-yard kick sailed wide left with 59 seconds remaining, his first miss of the season after nine straight successful attempts.

Rather than running out the clock, Georgia marched down the field and extended it is lead on Fromm's 7-yard touchdown pass to George Pickens with nine seconds left. An unsuccessful two-point conversion attempt made the halftime score 26-14.

Tennessee never threatened again.

THE TAKEAWAY

Georgia: The Bulldogs had to come from behind for a second straight game after erasing a halftime deficit in a 23-17 victory over Notre Dame two weeks ago. Georgia made some uncharacteristic mistakes early but showed the poise of a veteran team by regaining the momentum quickly. It helps to have a quarterback the caliber of Fromm, who hasn't thrown an interception all season.

Tennessee: The quarterback change gave Tennessee an energy boost to start the game and enabled the Vols to outplay Georgia for the first 25 minutes or so. But the offense slowed down quite a bit in the second half and the defense couldn't put any pressure on Fromm.

Final т 10 16 3 14 43 UGA TENN 14 Scoring Summary -----
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 UGA TD 7:07 D'Andre Swift 1 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)
 12 plays, 84 yards, 6:51
 7
 0

 TENN TD 6:25 Marquez Callaway 73 Yd pass from Brian Maurer (Brent Victor)
 7
 0
TENN TD 0:22 Fundquer 552-1 Cimaglia Kick) 2 plays, 75 yards, 0:42 UGA FG 2:34 Rodrigo Blankenship 50 Yd Field Goal 7 plays, 43 yards, 3:51 7 7 10 SECOND QUARTER UGA TENN TENN TD 14:57 Jauan Jennings 12 Yd pass from Brian Maurer (Brent Cimaglia Kick) Cimaglia Kick) 10 plays, 75 yards, 2:37 10 14 UGA FG 11:31 Rodrigo Blankenship 34 Yd Field Goal 8 plays, 58 yards, 3:26 13 14 UGA TD 1:59 Lawrence Cager 3 Yd pass from Jake Fromm (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick) G plays, 60 yards, 2:03 20 14 UGA TD 0:09 George Pickens 7 Yd pass from Jake Fromm (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed) 5 plays, 70 yards, 0:50 26 14 THIRD QUARTER UGA TENN UGA FG 7:03 Rodrigo Blankenship 27 Yd Field Goal 7 plays, 44 yards, 3:34 29 14 FOURTH QUARTER UGA TENN UGA TD $\hat{8}$:02 Brian Herrien 1 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick) 10 plays, 75 yards, 6:04 36 14 TD 4:39 Tae Crowder 60 Yd Fumble Return (Rodrigo Blankenship UGA Kick) 8 pláys, 35 yards, 3:23 43 14 Team Stats UGA TENN First Downs 20 26 Passes for First 11 11 Rushes for First 5 13 Penalties for First 2 4 Third Down Efficiency 5-11 5 - 12Fourth Down Efficiency 0-1 0 - 1Total Yards Total Plays 526 343 70 62 Avg Gain Per Play Net Yards Rushing 7.5 5.5 70 238 Rushes 41 29 Yards Per Rush 5.8 2.4 Net Yards Passing 288 273 Comp-Att 24 - 2915 - 33Yards Per Pass 9.9 8.3 Times Sacked 0 3 Yds Lost To Sacks 0 -22 Interceptions 0 1 Punts 5 2 Punt Average 35.5 33.4 Penalties 11 6 Penalty Yards 107 51 Fumbles 0 2 Fumbles Lost 0 1 Time of Poss 35:36 23:32 Individual Stats RUSHING GEORGIA Yds Avg Rush ͲD LONG Brian Herrien 11 88 8.0 1 40 D'Andre Swift 17 72 4.2 23 Zamir White Tyler Simmons 7 57 8.1 0 17 3 19 6.3 0 17 Jake Fromm 0 5 5.0 5 0 Team 2 -3 -1.5 0 TENNESSEE Rush Yds Avg 5.2 тD LONG Tim Jordan 47 0 17 Ty Chandler 7 38 5.4 0 16 Jarrett Guarantano 9 9.0 0 9 1 Eric Gray 5 1.0 0 9 -29 Brian Maurer -4.1 0 0 PASSING GEORGIA Y/A Int QBRat Comp Att Yds тD Jake Fromm 24 29 288 9.9 2 9.3 TENNESSEE Comp Att Yds тD Int QBRat 28 Brian Maurer 14 259 Jarrett Guarantano 1 5 14 2.8 0 0 RECEIVING GEORGIA Rec Yds TD LONG Avg D'Andre Swift 4 72 18.0 0 44 Demetris Robertson 61 30.5 0 33 Lawrence Cager 5 58 11.6 21 Tyler Simmons 8.7 0 3 26 9 George Pickens 3 23 7.7 8 Eli Wolf 2 18 9.0 0 10 2 Matt Landers 0 17 8.5 11 James Cook 2 12 6.0 0 9 Brian Herrien 1 1 1.0 0 1 TENNESSEE LONG Rec Yds TD Avg Jauan Jennings 7 114 16.3 33 1 Marguez Callaway 3 105 35.0 1 73 Dominick Wood-Anderson 0 2 30 15.0 16 Tim Jordan 11.0 0 11 Austin Pope 1 10 10.0 0 10 Ty Chandler 3.0