

WEEK SEVEN  
FLORIDA ST at CLEMSON

**No. 2 Clemson pounds Florida St 45-14 for 21st straight win**

CLEMSON, S.C. -- Trevor Lawrence threw three touchdown passes, two to Justyn Ross, and No. 2 Clemson answered any lingering questions from its close call at North Carolina, winning its 21st straight game by pounding Florida State 45-14 on Saturday.

The Tigers and coach Dabo Swinney faced two weeks of questions about why the defending national champions needed a last-minute stop on a 2-point conversion to escape the Tar Heels with a 21-20 win. Everything from Lawrence's health to Travis Etienne's fumble-itis (he had a key one to keep North Carolina in the game) came under scrutiny as many wondered: What's wrong with the Tigers? Apparently, nothing.

Clemson (4-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) started 6-0 for a fifth straight year and beat the Seminoles (3-3, 2-2) for the fifth straight year, also a program best.

Lawrence completed 17 of 25 passes for 170 yards, including 10- and 8-yard TD throws to Ross. Lawrence also ran for a touchdown, the 6-foot-6 sophomore extending full body to get over the goal line.

Etienne ran for 127 yards and caught one of Lawrence's scoring throws.

"We all were challenged over the last two weeks to get back to being who we are," Clemson co-offensive coordinator Tony Elliott said.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney pulled out everything he could to make this one a runaway. He had Etienne throw a 23-yard pass to Ross on the opening drive, then went for it on fourth-and-goal from Florida State 3 for Clemson's first touchdown, an inside pass from 3 yards out.

Swinney showed off this year's short-yardage Jumbo package on another fourth-and-short near the FSU goal line with starting defensive linemen Tyler Davis, Xavier Thomas and Nyles Pinckney in formation. But Thomas came up just shy of the touchdown.

Moments later when Clemson got the ball back on Chad Smith's interception with 40 seconds before the half and up 28-0, Lawrence threw twice into the end zone before B.T. Potter missed a 24-yard field goal try. Potter got an earful from an emphatic Swinney after the miss.

Florida State never had a chance in this one.

Quarterbacks James Blackman and Alex Hornibrook both threw first-half interceptions and the Seminoles managed only 63 yards in the first half. Things didn't get better after halftime as Blackman threw another pick that went for Derion Kendrick's 38-yard return score.

Florida State star Cam Akers' struggles against the Tigers continued. He had gained just 47 total yards vs. Clemson the past two games and ended with 34 yards on nine carries here.

The Seminoles broke the shutout with Blackman's 64-yard TD pass to Tamorrion Terry late in the third quarter.

"I told the guys this week we had to play at our best, but we didn't," Florida State coach Willie Taggart said. "Really disappointed."

Clemson won its 750th game, the 15th program nationally to do that and the first in the ACC.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Florida State: The Seminoles hoped to carry momentum from two straight wins into Death Valley. Nope. The 'Noles don't have the experienced depth to challenge the four-time defending ACC champions. At least it was better than last year, when the Tigers won 59-10 in Tallahassee.

Clemson: Don't expect the "What's wrong?" questions to continue as the Tigers showed power and motivation to keep on top. Lawrence appeared healthy and confident in dismantling Florida State.

**POLL IMPLICATIONS**

Clemson should have no problem remaining No. 2 as it continues trying for a fifth consecutive College Football Playoff appearance.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
FSU	0	0	7	7	14
CLEM	14	14	14	3	45

**Scoring Summary**

	FSU	CLEM
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
CLEM TD 12:09 Travis Etienne 3 Yd pass from Trevor Lawrence (B.T. Potter Kick)	0	7
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:51		
CLEM TD 4:41 Trevor Lawrence 8 Yd Run (B.T. Potter Kick)	0	14
9 plays, 66 yards, 3:49		
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
CLEM TD 13:13 Justyn Ross 10 Yd pass from Trevor Lawrence (B.T. Potter Kick)	0	21
11 plays, 57 yards, 5:00		
CLEM TD 8:58 Justyn Ross 8 Yd pass from Trevor Lawrence (B.T. Potter Kick)	0	28
6 plays, 78 yards, 2:44		
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
CLEM TD 11:49 Amari Rodgers 29 Yd Run (Steven Sawicki Kick)	0	35
5 plays, 67 yards, 2:13		
CLEM TD 9:39 Derion Kendrick 38 Yd Interception Return (Steven Sawicki Kick)	0	42
5 plays, 13 yards, 2:10		
FSU TD 2:02 Tamorrion Terry 64 Yd pass from Alex Hornibrook (Ricky Aguayo Kick)	7	42
3 plays, 75 yards, 1:28		
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
CLEM FG 4:58 Steven Sawicki 26 Yd Field Goal	7	45
8 plays, 41 yards, 3:31		
FSU TD 2:41 Khalan Laborn 40 Yd Run (Ricky Aguayo Kick)	14	45
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:17		

Team Stats	FSU	CLEM
First Downs	10	31
Passes for First	5	15
Rushes for First	3	12
Penalties for First	2	4
Third Down Efficiency	2-13	5-16
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	1-3
Total Yards	253	552
Total Plays	58	91
Avg Gain Per Play	4.4	6.1
Net Yards Rushing	103	320
Rushes	23	53
Yards Per Rush	4.5	6.0
Net Yards Passing	150	232
Comp-Att	17-35	24-38
Yards Per Pass	4.3	6.1
Times Sacked	3	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-15	0
Interceptions	3	1
Punts	9	4
Punt Average	38.0	39.3
Penalties	7	6
Penalty Yards	68	65
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Time of Poss	20:23	39:37

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

FLORIDA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Khalan Laborn	8	69	8.6	1	40
Cam Akers	9	34	3.8	0	15
Tre'Shaun Harrison	1	11	11.0	0	11
James Blackman	3	-3	-1.0	0	2
Alex Hornibrook	2	-8	-4.0	0	0
CLEMSON	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Travis Etienne	17	127	7.5	0	27
Lyn-J Dixon	10	49	4.9	0	16
Trevor Lawrence	6	40	6.7	1	10
Amari Rodgers	1	29	29.0	1	29
Darion Rencher	3	27	9.0	0	14
Chez Mellusi	5	22	4.4	0	12
Taisun Phommachanh	5	16	3.2	0	9
Chase Brice	2	10	5.0	0	6
Xavier Thomas	1	1	1.0	0	1
Michel Dukes	3	-1	-0.3	0	1

**PASSING**

FLORIDA ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Alex Hornibrook	8	12	84	7.0	1	1	4.6
James Blackman	9	23	66	2.9	0	2	7.7
CLEMSON	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Trevor Lawrence	17	25	170	6.8	3	1	95.6
Chase Brice	5	9	35	3.9	0	0	32.8
Travis Etienne	1	1	23	23.0	0	0	45.6
Taisun Phommachanh	1	3	4	1.3	0	0	7.9

**RECEIVING**

FLORIDA ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tamorrion Terry	2	83	41.5	1	64
D.J. Matthews	3	26	8.7	0	18
Tre' McKitty	2	19	9.5	0	16
Ontaria Wilson	2	8	4.0	0	6
Keyshawn Helton	1	7	7.0	0	7
Camren McDonald	1	4	4.0	0	4
Tre'Shaun Harrison	5	3	0.6	0	9
Khalan Laborn	1	0	0.0	0	0
CLEMSON	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Justyn Ross	5	61	12.2	2	23
Tee Higgins	2	44	22.0	0	40
Amari Rodgers	5	44	8.8	0	23
Joe Ngata	2	35	17.5	0	22
Diondre Overton	1	8	8.0	0	8
T.J. Chase	1	8	8.0	0	8
J.C. Chalk	1	8	8.0	0	8
Lyn-J Dixon	1	7	7.0	0	7
Cornell Powell	2	7	3.5	0	4
Frank Ladson Jr.	1	4	4.0	0	4
Travis Etienne	1	3	3.0	1	3
Luke Price	1	3	3.0	0	3
Trevor Lawrence	1	0	0.0	0	0