

WEEK EIGHT  
 TENNESSEE at ALABAMA

**No. 1 Alabama survives Tua injury, beats Tennessee 35-13**

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. -- Alabama leaned on the old formula once quarterback Tua Tagovailoa went down with an ankle injury: big defensive plays and running the ball.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide turned to the defense and tailback Najee Harris once the high-flying passing game was grounded, pulling out a 35-13 victory over Tennessee on Saturday night. The Tide (7-0, 4-0 Southeastern Conference) faced its first test of the season without last season's Heisman Trophy runner-up against the five-touchdown underdogs. Both starting quarterbacks left the game before halftime, and the Volunteers (2-5, 1-3) put up a fight much of the way.

Tagovailoa exited with a left ankle injury in the second quarter and coach Nick Saban said he is likely to miss the next game against Arkansas. He called time before the play clock ran out after a sack.

"Tua came out of the game, I didn't even know he was hurt," Saban said. "We called timeout because the shot clock was running out. He said he felt like he twisted his ankle and Mac (Jones) had to go in. I didn't have time to give him a pep talk or anything."

He told teammates he'd be "back for LSU" on Nov. 9, linebacker Terrell Lewis said.

Tennessee freshman Brian Maurer had already left with a concussion for the second straight week, replaced by former starter Jarrett Guarantano. The end result was familiar: Alabama's 13th consecutive win over the rival Vols.

"This is the first time we really had to grind one out and we really had to make plays," Saban said.

The biggest came when Trevon Diggs recovered Guarantano's fumble on fourth-and-goal from the 1 and raced 100 yards for a touchdown to end the threat. Tennessee could have cut the deficit to a touchdown, down 28-13.

Diggs said he knew he was going to score.

"There was a lot of green grass," he said. "It was probably my favorite play since I've been here."

Vols coach Jeremy Pruitt had some angry words for Guarantano as the quarterback walked toward the sideline, pointing his finger toward him and briefly grabbing at his facemask.

"We've run two quarterback sneaks earlier in the game by pushing the pile," Pruitt said. "We could either go back with it or run a sneak, and we elected to run a sneak and he shouldn't have jumped over the top."

"He should have pushed it there over the middle."

Harris was already delivering before Tagovailoa's injury. He wound up running for 105 yards and two touchdowns, and adding 48 yards on four catches. It was the second straight 100-yard game for a playmaker often overshadowed by Tagovailoa and the passing game.

Alabama got a cushion when reserve wide receiver Slade Bolden threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to a wide-open Miller Forristall in the end zone with 4:55 in the third. Bolden did a celebratory dance toward the sideline, where he was swarmed by teammates.

It was a needed pick-me-up with the Vols riding momentum and having cut it to 21-13 with a field goal. The defense then made a stop with Lewis sacking Guarantano on third down.

Tagovailoa finished 11-of-12 passing for 155 yards but also threw an interception on first-and-goal from the 2 when he scrambled around and forced the ball. Jones passed for 72 yards and is expected to get his first start.

**TAKEAWAY**

Tennessee: Came closer to the Tide than any other opponent this season. Had 13 penalties for 93 yards. Guarantano was 7 of 16 for 55 yards. Maurer was 5 of 7 for 62 yards with an interception.

Alabama: Survived a rare bad decision by Tagovailoa and his injury. A young defense delivered when it had to. Alabama also was heavily penalized, flagged eight times for 93 yards.

**PRUITT ON OFFICIATING**

"We've played six games, and we've been the least penalized team in the SEC," the Vols coach said. "Probably got more penalties in the first quarter than we've gotten in an entire game this year."

He added: "I know this, they hit our quarterback and he got a concussion and there wasn't no flag."

**TARGETING**

Tennessee middle linebacker Daniel Bituli was ejected for targeting in the second quarter for a hit on receiver Jerry Jeudy near the goal line. The Vols were without linebacker Henry To'o To'o for the first half for a targeting infraction against Mississippi State.

**ICING THE KICKER**

When Alabama's Joseph Bulovas lined up for a 41-yard field goal attempt late in the first half, Tennessee called time. Then another one, and finally a third while Tide fans booed. The strategy may have worked because Bulovas' kick went wide left.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
TENN	7	3	3	0	13
ALA	14	7	7	7	35

**Scoring Summary -----**

	TENN	ALA
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
ALA TD 11:22 Najee Harris 1 Yd Run (Joseph Bulovas Kick)		7
4 plays, 35 yards, 2:05	0	
TENN TD 4:21 Brian Maurer 2 Yd Run (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	7	
6 plays, 41 yards, 3:12	7	
ALA TD 1:35 Brian Robinson Jr. 9 Yd Run (Joseph Bulovas Kick)		14
6 plays, 65 yards, 2:46	7	14
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
TENN FG 11:54 Brent Cimaglia 37 Yd Field Goal	11	14
11 plays, 55 yards, 4:41	10	
ALA TD 9:02 Najee Harris 1 Yd Run (Joseph Bulovas Kick)		21
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:52	10	21
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
TENN FG 8:32 Brent Cimaglia 32 Yd Field Goal	13	21
11 plays, 40 yards, 5:00	13	
ALA TD 4:55 Miller Forristall 6 Yd pass from Slade Bolden (Joseph Bulovas Kick)		28
10 plays, 76 yards, 3:37	13	28
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
ALA TD 7:21 Trevon Diggs 100 Yd Fumble Return (Joseph Bulovas Kick)		35
14 plays, 66 yards, 8:03	13	35

Team Stats	TENN	ALA
First Downs	18	23
Passes for First	5	10
Rushes for First	8	8
Penalties for First	5	5
Third Down Efficiency	7-15	6-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-1
Total Yards	231	373
Total Plays	61	58
Avg Gain Per Play	3.8	6.4
Net Yards Rushing	114	140
Rushes	37	34
Yards Per Rush	3.1	4.1
Net Yards Passing	117	233
Comp-Att	12-24	18-24
Yards Per Pass	4.9	9.7
Times Sacked	3	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-23	-15
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	5	3
Punt Average	36.6	42.0
Penalties	13	8
Penalty Yards	93	93
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	31:44	28:16

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

TENNESSEE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tim Jordan	17	94	5.5	0	33
Ty Chandler	4	23	5.8	0	25
Eric Gray	3	12	4.0	0	7
Brian Maurer	2	1	0.5	1	2
Jauan Jennings	1	1	1.0	0	1
Quavaris Crouch	1	1	1.0	0	1
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Jarrett Guarantano	7	-4	-0.6	0	2
J.T. Shrout	1	-12	-12.0	0	0

**ALABAMA**

ALABAMA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Najee Harris	21	105	5.0	2	15
Brian Robinson Jr.	7	40	5.7	1	11
Keilan Robinson	3	6	2.0	0	4
Tua Tagovailoa	1	-5	-5.0	0	0
Mac Jones	2	-6	-3.0	0	4

**PASSING**

TENNESSEE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Brian Maurer	5	7	62	8.9	0	1	48.3
Jarrett Guarantano	7	16	55	3.4	0	0	21.5
J.T. Shrout	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.1

  

ALABAMA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Tua Tagovailoa	11	12	155	12.9	0	1	75.8
Mac Jones	6	11	72	6.5	0	0	40.5
Slade Bolden	1	1	6	6.0	1	0	98.9

**RECEIVING**

TENNESSEE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jauan Jennings	6	66	11.0	0	18
Josh Palmer	1	20	20.0	0	20
Marquez Callaway	1	13	13.0	0	13
Ty Chandler	2	9	4.5	0	8
Dominick Wood-Anderson	2	9	4.5	0	6

  

ALABAMA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Henry Ruggs III	4	72	18.0	0	48
Najee Harris	4	48	12.0	0	21
Jerry Jeudy	3	41	13.7	0	19
Miller Forristall	3	28	9.3	1	14
DeVonta Smith	1	18	18.0	0	18
Jaylen Waddle	1	13	13.0	0	13
Brian Robinson Jr.	2	13	6.5	0	8