

WEEK ONE  
 GEORGIA ST at TENNESSEE

**Tennessee stunned as Georgia St. rallies for win**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. -- Dan Ellington threw two touchdown passes and ran for a third score as 25-point underdog Georgia State upset Tennessee 38-30 on Saturday in one of the first stunners of the college football season.

Georgia State (1-0) beat a Power Five opponent for the first time since the Sun Belt Conference school launched its program in 2010. The Panthers' closest call before this had come in 2016, when they lost 23-17 to Wisconsin after leading in the fourth quarter.

Tennessee (0-1) suffered one of the more embarrassing setbacks in its history, the latest blow for a storied program attempting to bounce back from two straight losing seasons.

Georgia State was coming off a 2-10 season in which it had lost its last seven games. Only one of those seven losses was decided by fewer than two touchdowns, and one of its two wins came against FCS opponent Kennesaw State.

But the Panthers outplayed and outworked Tennessee on Saturday to earn their first road win since 2017.

The hard times for Tennessee were evident from a look at the Neyland Stadium stands. Although the announced attendance was 85,503, thousands of fans apparently left at halftime, and many others headed for shaded areas, leaving plenty of sections of the 102,455-seat facility virtually empty as Tennessee attempted its comeback.

Tra Barnett put Georgia State ahead for good 28-23 when he raced untouched around the right side with 8:56 remaining. Barnett ended up rushing for 95 yards on 21 carries.

Tennessee crossed midfield on its next possession before Jaylon Jones came in from Guarantano's blind side and sacked him, forcing a fumble that Georgia State's Jhi'Shawn Taylor recovered at the Vols' 39 with 7:10 left.

That led to the game-clinching touchdown by Ellington with 4:45 left.

Ellington faked a handoff and then made multiple moves to elude defenders before running into the left corner of the end zone for a 22-yard score that left Tennessee defensive backs Alontae Taylor and Shawn Shamburger lying on the field hurt as the Panthers celebrated in the end zone.

Brandon Wright made it 38-23 by kicking a 48-yard field goal with 2:37 left after a Guarantano interception. Guarantano ended up 26-of-40 for 311 yards with two touchdowns, including an 18-yarder to Jauan Jennings that capped the scoring with two seconds remaining.

A huge momentum swing early in the fourth quarter made it seem as though Tennessee would avoid the upset.

Georgia State led 21-20 and had the ball at Tennessee's 19-yard line when DeAndre Johnson sacked Ellington, forcing a fumble that LaTrell Bumphus recovered for the Vols.

On the next play, Guarantano found tight end Dominick Wood-Anderson wide open down the left sideline for a 54-yard gain. That completion set up a Brent Cimaglia 31-yard field goal that put Tennessee ahead 23-21 with 12:05 left.

That's the moment when the Panthers could have let the game get away from them. They instead regrouped and delivered the most memorable moment this program has ever produced.

Entering Saturday, SEC teams had won 82 straight games as a favorite of 25 points or more. The last loss also came to a Sun Belt team: Mississippi State lost to South Alabama on Sept 3, 2016.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Georgia State: Ellington's a senior quarterback who showed the kind of veteran moxie that's needed to produce this kind of upset. After completing just one of his first nine passes, Ellington ended up going 11-of-24 for 139 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for 61 yards on 14 carries. Most importantly, he found a way to bounce back after committing the turnover early in the fourth quarter that helped Tennessee take the lead.

Tennessee: Vols coach Jeremy Pruitt had overhauled his coaching staff after going 5-7 in his debut season last year. Tennessee is paying \$1.5 million this season to new offensive coordinator Jim Chaney and \$1 million to new defensive coordinator Derrick Ansley. That new-look staff opened the season with an utterly unimaginable loss.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
GAST	7	7	3	17	38
TENN	14	3	3	10	30

**Scoring Summary -----**

	GAST	TENN
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
GAST TD 12:00 Seth Paige 4 Yd Run (Brandon Wright Kick)	7	0
6 plays, 23 yards, 2:45		
TENN TD 4:13 Marquez Callaway 6 Yd pass from Jarrett Guarantano (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	7	7
16 plays, 78 yards, 7:42		
TENN TD 0:09 Ty Chandler 31 Yd Run (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	7	14
5 plays, 46 yards, 1:58		
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
GAST TD 3:11 Cornelius McCoy 17 Yd pass from Dan Ellington (Brandon Wright Kick)	14	14
16 plays, 81 yards, 6:32		
TENN FG 0:00 Brent Cimaglia 19 Yd Field Goal	14	17
12 plays, 73 yards, 3:11		
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
GAST TD 10:30 Aubry Payne 6 Yd pass from Dan Ellington (Brandon Wright Kick)	21	17
9 plays, 75 yards, 4:30		
TENN FG 3:32 Brent Cimaglia 48 Yd Field Goal	21	20
7 plays, 19 yards, 3:01		
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
TENN FG 12:05 Brent Cimaglia 31 Yd Field Goal	21	23
5 plays, 62 yards, 2:16		
GAST TD 8:56 Tra Barnett 19 Yd Run (Brandon Wright Kick)	28	23
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:09		
GAST TD 4:45 Dan Ellington 22 Yd Run (Brandon Wright Kick)	35	23
5 plays, 39 yards, 2:25		
GAST FG 2:37 Brandon Wright 48 Yd Field Goal	38	23
4 plays, 5 yards, 1:37		
TENN TD 0:02 Jauan Jennings 18 Yd pass from Jarrett Guarantano (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	38	30
5 plays, 69 yards, 0:53		

Team Stats	GAST	TENN
First Downs	24	21
Passes for First	8	12
Rushes for First	15	8
Penalties for First	1	1
Third Down Efficiency	10-17	8-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	0-2
Total Yards	352	404
Total Plays	77	71
Avg Gain Per Play	4.6	5.7
Net Yards Rushing	213	93
Rushes	53	31
Yards Per Rush	4.0	3.0
Stat Name		
Net Yards Passing	139	311
Comp-Att	11-24	26-40
Yards Per Pass	5.8	7.8
Times Sacked	4	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-36	-17
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	3	1
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	3
Penalty Yards	31	24
Fumbles	1	4
Fumbles Lost	1	2
Time of Poss	30:34	29:26

**Individual Stats**

<b>RUSHING</b>					
GEORGIA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tra Barnett	21	95	4.5	1	19
Dan Ellington	14	61	4.4	1	22
Seth Paige	11	40	3.6	1	15
Devin Gentry	1	15	15.0	0	15
Destin Coates	5	4	0.8	0	4
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
TENNESSEE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Ty Chandler	6	48	8.0	1	31
Eric Gray	7	29	4.1	0	7
Tim Jordan	7	16	2.3	0	5
Ramel Keyton	1	10	10.0	0	10
Jarrett Guarantano	10	-10	-1.0	0	8

<b>PASSING</b>							
GEORGIA ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Dan Ellington	11	24	139	5.8	2	0	70.1
TENNESSEE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jarrett Guarantano	26	40	311	7.8	2	1	60.1

<b>RECEIVING</b>						
GEORGIA ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Cornelius McCoy	3	43	14.3	1	17	
Roger Carter	2	33	16.5	0	28	
Aubry Payne	2	17	8.5	1	11	
Devin Gentry	1	14	14.0	0	14	
Terrance Dixon	1	14	14.0	0	14	
Tra Barnett	1	12	12.0	0	12	
Sam Pinckney	1	6	6.0	0	6	
TENNESSEE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Jauan Jennings	7	108	15.4	1	34	
Dominick Wood-Anderson	3	79	26.3	0	54	
Eric Gray	6	51	8.5	0	14	
Marquez Callaway	3	46	15.3	1	27	
Josh Palmer	3	17	5.7	0	9	
Ty Chandler	1	4	4.0	0	4	
Tim Jordan	1	3	3.0	0	3	
Cedric Tillman	1	3	3.0	0	3	
Austin Pope	1	0	0.0	0	0	