

WEEK ONE
GEORGIA at VANDERBILT

No. 3 Georgia routs Vanderbilt 30-6 in rare SEC road opener

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Coach Kirby Smart thinks his third-ranked Georgia Bulldogs showed him a glimpse of just how good they might be this season in a rare season opener inside the Southeastern Conference on the road.

And Smart also sees plenty of room for improvement.

Jake Fromm threw for 156 yards and a touchdown, and third-ranked Georgia routed Vanderbilt 30-6 Saturday night.

The Bulldogs won their 20th opener in 23 seasons and stayed perfect to kick off coach Kirby Smart's fourth season. They also easily won their 14th straight against the SEC's Eastern Division in their first league game to open a season since 1995.

It sure didn't feel like a road trip with fans taking advantage of a holiday weekend to paint the stadium Georgia red. The Bulldogs rewarded them by scoring a touchdown on their first three possessions, giving the fans plenty to start celebrating early.

"I think it's pretty obvious, it seemed like they took over a majority of that stadium," Smart said. "It sure felt like a home game with the people there, the fourth-quarter lights. Pretty special. I think they travel well, and I think Nashville's a great place to go and our fans all came to be a part of it."

D'Andre Swift ran 16 times for 149 yards, and Brian Herrien added 65 and a TD run as the Bulldogs rolled up 326 yards rushing. Georgia finished with a 481-225 edge in total offense, and the Bulldogs also had two sacks and recovered a fumble.

"We have a chance to be explosive offensively, and we're going to try to be aggressive defensively," Smart said. "The backs I kind of knew about. The wide-outs got some chances to make some plays, a couple balls."

Vanderbilt debuted a new starting quarterback in Riley Neal, a graduate transfer from Ball State, along with new offensive coordinator Gerry Gdowski. The Commodores also had Ke'Shawn Vaughn, the SEC's top returning rusher who ran for 1,244 yards last season, and the league's top returning receiver in Kalija Lipscomb.

But the Commodores were without three starters, including two on the offensive line with both left tackle Devin Cochran and left guard Saige Young out with injuries. That left Neal with little time to throw against a Georgia defense that returned seven starters on a unit that was 15th nationally giving up just 19.2 points a game last season.

Neal finished 15 of 25 for 85 yards before being replaced by Deuce Wallace for the final possession. Vaughn was held to 74 yards on 15 carries.

"We were never able to really get the pass game started and going," Vanderbilt coach Derek Mason said. "Don't know what that is. We'll get back and look at it and figure out where we need to go. I thought at times we ran the ball effectively. We've got to have more balance to what we do."

Vanderbilt managed only a pair of field goals by Ryley Guay of 26 and 46 yards.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Beating a league opponent, on the road no loss, to open the season should be more than enough to keep Georgia at No. 3.

THE TAKEAWAY

Georgia: The Bulldogs came into this season needing to replace their top six pass catchers from 2018 with four of those going to the NFL. Fromm showed he had no issues finding someone else to throw to, going 7 of 8 for 97 yards to open the game. Fromm completed passes to eight different receivers. But they struggled to pad their lead in the second half, settling for a trio of field goals by Rodrigo Blankenship. Kearnis Jackson also fumbled at the Vandy 5 in the fourth quarter after a 32-yard reception.

"First game sometimes you get a little bit of focus, not playing as clean as you wanted to," Fromm said.

Vanderbilt: The Commodores now have lost three straight to Georgia since pulling off a 17-16 win in Athens in 2016. They also gave up more yards rushing than in any game last season.

TOO MANY PENALTIES

Smart wasn't happy with the Bulldogs being flagged 10 times for 117 yards, penalties that included a late hit and a grabbed face mask that kept Vanderbilt drives alive. "We basically gave them 45 yards and two field goals on undisciplined penalties," Smart said.

NO DAWG WALK

Georgia fans expecting the Bulldogs to make the regular Dawg Walk into a stadium before the game missed out when the team wound up taking a much shorter route to their locker room. Smart said it was unplanned, but the Bulldogs lost their lead trooper to an altercation on the sidewalk. The replacement took a different route.

"Ironically, it was closer to the place we come in," Smart said. "We typically have to walk across the field."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UGA	14	7	3	6	30
VAN	0	6	0	0	6

Scoring Summary -----

	UGA	VAN
FIRST QUARTER		
UGA TD 11:01 Demetris Robertson 3 Yd pass from Jake Fromm (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)		
8 plays, 75 yards, 3:59	7	0
UGA TD 0:56 James Cook 18 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)		
10 plays, 89 yards, 5:34	14	0
SECOND QUARTER		
UGA TD 8:01 Brian Herrien 1 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)		
7 plays, 80 yards, 4:03	21	0
VAN FG 2:25 Ryley Guay 26 Yd Field Goal		
12 plays, 73 yards, 5:36	21	3
VAN FG 0:04 Ryley Guay 46 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 52 yards, 1:06	21	6
THIRD QUARTER		
UGA FG 7:48 Rodrigo Blankenship 50 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 56 yards, 5:23	24	6
FOURTH QUARTER		
UGA FG 7:20 Rodrigo Blankenship 37 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 20 yards, 2:21	27	6
UGA FG 2:13 Rodrigo Blankenship 31 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 31 yards, 3:23	30	6

Team Stats	UGA	VAN
First Downs	25	17
Passes for First	6	3
Rushes for First	17	10
Penalties for First	2	4
Third Down Efficiency	1-7	3-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	1-2
Total Yards	481	225
Total Plays	63	62
Avg Gain Per Play	7.6	3.6
Net Yards Rushing	325	116
Rushes	40	30
Yards Per Rush	8.1	3.9
Net Yards Passing	156	109
Comp-Att	15-23	16-32
Yards Per Pass	6.8	3.4
Times Sacked	0	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-22
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	2	7
Punt Average	54.0	47.1
Penalties	10	10
Penalty Yards	117	63
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Time of Poss	34:01	25:59

Individual Stats

RUSHING						
GEORGIA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
D'Andre Swift	16	147	9.2	0	36	
Brian Herrien	12	65	5.4	1	18	
Zamir White	5	51	10.2	0	23	
Demetris Robertson	2	29	14.5	0	15	
James Cook	2	22	11.0	1	18	
Tyler Simmons	2	10	5.0	0	9	
VANDERBILT	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	15	74	4.9	0	16	
Justice Shelton-Mosley	1	23	23.0	0	23	
Mitchell Pryor	2	11	5.5	0	8	
Jamauri Wakefield	1	7	7.0	0	7	
Dashaun Jerkins	1	3	3.0	0	3	
Riley Neal	10	-2	-0.2	0	10	

PASSING						
GEORGIA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int
Jake Fromm	15	23	156	6.8	1	0
VANDERBILT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int
Riley Neal	14	25	85	3.4	0	0
Deuce Wallace	2	6	24	4.0	0	0
Cam Johnson	0	1	0	0.0	0	0

RECEIVING						
GEORGIA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Lawrence Cager	2	41	20.5	0	38	
Kearnis Jackson	2	31	15.5	0	31	
Matt Landers	2	26	13.0	0	15	
Demetris Robertson	3	23	7.7	1	17	
James Cook	2	13	6.5	0	7	
Eli Wolf	1	11	11.0	0	11	
Charlie Woerner	2	7	3.5	0	6	
Brian Herrien	1	4	4.0	0	4	

VANDERBILT	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	3	24	8.0	0	12	
Chris Pierce	1	16	16.0	0	16	
Cam Johnson	2	14	7.0	0	9	
C.J. Bolar	2	13	6.5	0	9	
Jared Pinkney	2	11	5.5	0	9	
Jamauri Wakefield	1	10	10.0	0	10	
James Bostic	1	8	8.0	0	8	
Kalija Lipscomb	3	8	2.7	0	3	
Justice Shelton-Mosley	1	5	5.0	0	5	