

WEEK TEN
UAB at TENNESSEE

Tennessee capitalizes on takeaways to trounce UAB 30-7

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. -- Tennessee's Bryce Thompson says he's finally back in his preferred playing shape after a suspension caused him to miss the first three games of the season.

UAB needs no convincing.

Thompson tied a Tennessee single-game record by intercepting three passes as the Volunteers capitalized on UAB mistakes to trounce the Blazers 30-7 on Saturday night.

"(Missing) those three games kind of hurt me fatigue-wise," Thompson said. "I was kind of tired, but I knew I had to get myself together and get back in shape. I was able to practice again, so I was just running around, getting back in football shape and getting my football legs under me."

Tennessee (4-5) has won three of its last four games to bounce back from a 1-4 start. The Volunteers snapped UAB's three-game win streak and became the first team to exceed the 20-point mark against the Blazers (6-2) all season.

UAB quarterback Tyler Johnston III committed four turnovers on his team's side of the field in the Blazers' first seven series. Tennessee scored 20 points off those four takeaways to grab a 23-0 halftime advantage.

"When they make mistakes, you've got to make them pay," Tennessee coach Jeremy Pruitt said. "We did tonight."

Thompson became the ninth different Tennessee player to intercept three passes in a game. He was the first Volunteer to accomplish that feat since Deon Grant did it in a 24-0 victory over Auburn in 1999.

Those were the first three interceptions of the season for Thompson, who was suspended after an Aug. 24 arrest on a misdemeanor domestic assault charge that was later dismissed.

"Those three games away, not being around my team for three weeks, it did hurt," Thompson said. "But it was definitely a learning lesson. I'm just glad to be back on the team with my family, honestly."

Thompson said the situation taught him "just how to handle situations differently and don't take anything for granted."

His three interceptions set up two Brent Cimaglia field goals and a 2-yard touchdown run from Jauan Jennings. Tennessee also got an 11-yard touchdown run from Ty Chandler after Darel Middleton forced a Johnston fumble that Aubrey Solomon recovered.

The three interceptions gave Tennessee possession at the UAB 19, 31 and 43. Solomon's fumble recovery allowed Tennessee to start its first touchdown drive at the UAB 30.

Johnston went 11 of 22 for 136 yards with three interceptions and a fumble before an injury knocked him out of the game early in the fourth quarter.

UAB coach Bill Clark said after the game that Johnston sprained his knee.

"We'll just have to see how severe," Clark said.

Tennessee played a second straight game without quarterback Brian Maurer, who sustained concussions in back-to-back games against Mississippi State and Alabama earlier this month. J.T. Shrout and Jarrett Guarantano split time playing quarterback.

Guarantano went 13 of 21 for 147 yards with an interception and a 13-yard touchdown pass to Eric Gray. Shrout was 3 of 6 for 34 yards.

"We worked Brian to be ready to play, but with three quarterbacks, it was hard to get Brian as many reps as he probably needed to be ready, so we elected to go with the other guys today," Pruitt said.

THE TAKEAWAY

UAB: The Blazers made too many mistakes to have any chance of beating a Southeastern Conference team on the road. Dylan Hopkins' 15-yard touchdown pass to Lucious Stanley with 2:35 left prevented UAB from suffering its first shutout loss since its 2011 season opener. UAB remains without running back Spencer Brown, who suffered a high ankle sprain early in an Oct. 5 victory over Rice and hasn't played since.

Tennessee: The Vols have recovered from a woeful start to the season and now have a great chance to earn their first bowl bid since 2016. Tennessee is two wins away from bowl eligibility and visits Kentucky, travels to Missouri and hosts Vanderbilt in its final three games.

CIMAGLIA'S SURGE

Cimaglia made field goals from 36, 48 and 53 yards away to improve to 18 of 20 on field-goal attempts this season. The 53-yarder was the longest field goal by any Tennessee kicker since Jeff Hall also connected from 53 yards away against Oklahoma State in 1995.

KEY STAT

Tennessee has outscored opponents 54-7 over its last six quarters. Tennessee beat South Carolina 41-21 last week by outscoring the Gamecocks 24-0 after halftime.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UAB	0	0	0	7	7
TENN	6	17	7	0	30

Scoring Summary -----

	UAB	TENN
FIRST QUARTER		
TENN FG 13:27 Brent Cimaglia 36 Yd Field Goal	0	3
4 plays, -5 yards, 1:19		
TENN FG 4:44 Brent Cimaglia 48 Yd Field Goal	0	6
11 plays, 56 yards, 5:39		
SECOND QUARTER		
TENN FG 13:38 Brent Cimaglia 53 Yd Field Goal	0	9
4 plays, -5 yards, 1:00		
TENN TD 11:36 Ty Chandler 11 Yd Run (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	0	16
5 plays, 30 yards, 1:52		
TENN TD 3:08 Jauan Jennings 2 Yd Run (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	0	23
6 plays, 43 yards, 3:29		
THIRD QUARTER		
TENN TD 1:08 Eric Gray 13 Yd pass from Jarrett Guarantano (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	0	30
11 plays, 74 yards, 6:07		
FOURTH QUARTER		
UAB TD 2:35 Lucious Stanley 15 Yd pass from Dylan Hopkins (Nick Vogel Kick)	7	30
11 plays, 66 yards, 5:05		

Team Stats	UAB	TENN
First Downs	12	20
Passes for First	9	10
Rushes for First	3	7
Penalties for First	0	3
Third Down Efficiency	6-14	5-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	0-0
Total Yards	237	302
Total Plays	55	66
Avg Gain Per Play	4.3	4.6
Net Yards Rushing	63	121
Rushes	25	39
Yards Per Rush	2.5	3.1
Net Yards Passing	174	181
Comp-Att	14-30	16-27
Yards Per Pass	5.8	6.7
Times Sacked	3	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-19	-13
Interceptions	3	1
Punts	7	5
Punt Average	39.7	44.0
Penalties	5	3
Penalty Yards	49	5
Fumbles	2	2
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	26:05	33:55

Individual Stats

RUSHING					
UAB	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Lucious Stanley	9	34	3.8	0	9
Jermaine Brown Jr.	4	22	5.5	0	9
Dylan Hopkins	2	6	3.0	0	6
Myron Mitchell	1	4	4.0	0	4
Jonathan Haden	2	4	2.0	0	2
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Tyler Johnston III	6	-6	-1.0	0	5
TENNESSEE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Ty Chandler	16	85	5.3	1	31
Tim Jordan	6	19	3.2	0	8
J.T. Shrout	1	10	10.0	0	10
Eric Gray	8	8	1.0	0	6
Josh Palmer	1	4	4.0	0	4
Quavaris Crouch	2	3	1.5	0	2
Jauan Jennings	1	2	2.0	1	2
Jarrett Guarantano	4	-10	-2.5	0	8

PASSING							
UAB	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Tyler Johnston	11	22	136	6.2	0	3	3.3
Dylan Hopkins	3	8	38	4.8	1	0	46.5
TENNESSEE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jarrett Guarantano	13	21	147	7.0	1	1	41.5
J.T. Shrout	3	6	34	5.7	0	0	23.8

RECEIVING					
UAB	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Myron Mitchell	5	63	12.6	0	26
Austin Watkins	3	34	11.3	0	23
Lucious Stanley	3	30	10.0	1	15
Kendall Parham	2	30	15.0	0	21
Hayden Pittman	1	17	17.0	0	17
TENNESSEE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jauan Jennings	5	70	14.0	0	23
Dominick Wood-Anderson	3	34	11.3	0	23
Andrew Craig	1	29	29.0	0	29
Ty Chandler	2	14	7.0	0	9
Eric Gray	1	13	13.0	1	13
Marquez Callaway	1	10	10.0	0	10
Austin Pope	1	6	6.0	0	6
Josh Palmer	1	4	4.0	0	4
Jacob Warren	1	1	1.0	0	1