

WEEK TWELVE  
WAKE FOREST at CLEMSON

**Lawrence throws 4 TDs as No. 3 Clemson tops Deacons 52-3**

CLEMSON, S.C. -- Trevor Lawrence wasn't going to slow down after clinching the ACC Atlantic a week earlier. No. 3 Clemson didn't, either.

Lawrence tied his career high with four touchdowns, three to Tee Higgins, and No. 3 Clemson won its 26th straight game and completed a second straight perfect Atlantic Coast Conference regular season with a 52-3 victory over Wake Forest on Saturday.

Tigers coach Dabo Swinney said the team has played its best football the past six games as the postseason approaches.

"It's not like we're trying to score a certain amount of points," he said. "We just let them play. We're doing the things you need to do to win a championship."

Much of that starts with Lawrence, who after a sometimes shaky start to the season has steadied himself to look like the stellar passer who led Clemson to the national title a year ago.

Lawrence has thrown for 19 TDs and three interceptions in the past six games -- and was front and center of Clemson's latest blowout.

The Tigers (11-0, 8-0, No. 3 CFP) opened quickly and, after an uncomfortable stretch of four series with just a field goal, turned it on again right before halftime to win their 11th in a row over the Demon Deacons (7-3, 3-3).

"It showed that we're focused. We don't feel like we've arrived," Lawrence said. "We have a lot more ahead of us."

Especially if the Tigers play like this.

Lawrence and Higgins connected on a 14-yard scoring pass on Clemson's first drive and Travis Etienne followed with a 14-yard run for a 14-0 lead five minutes into the game. The Tigers got it going again in the half's final minute with Lawrence finding Higgins between a pair of defenders on another 14-yard scoring pass with 42 seconds left. Cornerback A.J. Terrell got an interception with 20 seconds left -- the second pick thrown by Wake Forest passer Jamie Newman -- and Lawrence threw a perfect strike to Higgins from 30 yards out as Clemson led 31-3 at the break.

"We came out strong, then we lost a little tempo in the first quarter," Higgins said. "We decided to get back on track."

Lawrence's last scoring throw was a 10-yarder to Frank Ladson. That matched Lawrence's career best accomplished twice last season against Georgia Tech and Florida State.

This one figured to have more at stake as surprising Wake Forest had only one ACC loss heading into November and looked for an upset at Clemson to gain the ACC Atlantic's spot in the league championship game. But he Demon Deacons were beaten at Virginia Tech, 36-17 last week and Clemson clinched its fifth consecutive division crown with a 55-10 win at North Carolina State a week ago.

Wake Forest lost two straight games for the first time this season. The Demon Deacons, who were averaging 487 yards a game, managed just 105 yards in this one.

It was Wake Forest's first game without receiver Sage Surratt, who had been leading the ACC with more than 111 yards a game.

"We're not at that level yet and we're certainly not close to that level when we're short-handed," Demon Deacons coach Dave Clawson said.

Lawrence, the 6-foot-6 sophomore, left in the third quarter, finishing 21 of 27 for 272 yards.

Etienne had 121 yards, his sixth consecutive game with 100 or more yards and his seventh this season.

Clemson reached 11-0 for the third time in five seasons. It can finish a second straight undefeated regular season when it faces state rival South Carolina on Nov. 30.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Wake Forest: The Demon Deacons could get little going. They had just 54 yards in the opening quarter as the Tigers quickly figured out how to handle Wake Forest's exaggerated mesh-point handoff schemes. The Demon Deacons can still finish high in the ACC by handling business in their final two league games against Duke and Syracuse, who came into this week a combined 7-11.

Clemson: The Tigers certainly proved they had no equal in the ACC regular season. The defending national champions also look like they're rounding into shape for whichever College Football Playoff opponent they draw. They've scored at 45 points in six straight games and have not allowed an opponent to score more than 14 points in that stretch.

**POLL IMPLICATIONS**

Clemson has won and slid before this season. But can't imagine the Tigers fall from the No. 3 spot they hold in both the AP rankings and the College Football Playoff poll.

**BANGED UP?**

Clemson starting receivers Amari Rodgers and Justyn Ross both came out with injuries in the first half. Swinney said neither was serious and both should play at South Carolina in two weeks. Rodgers hurt his right shoulder on an early punt return while Ross fell on his ribs late in the second quarter.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WAKE	3	0	0	0	3
CLEM	14	17	14	7	52

**Scoring Summary -----**

	WAKE	CLEM
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
CLEM TD 11:40 Tee Higgins 14 Yd pass from Trevor Lawrence (B.T. Potter Kick)		7
3 plays, 28 yards, 0:52	0	
CLEM TD 9:55 Travis Etienne 14 Yd Run (B.T. Potter Kick)		14
4 plays, 41 yards, 1:39	0	
WAKE FG 1:29 Nick Sciba 30 Yd Field Goal		14
6 plays, 16 yards, 2:33	3	
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
CLEM FG 8:45 B.T. Potter 35 Yd Field Goal		17
10 plays, 60 yards, 3:49	3	
CLEM TD 0:42 Tee Higgins 14 Yd pass from Trevor Lawrence (B.T. Potter Kick)		24
6 plays, 80 yards, 1:37	3	
CLEM TD 0:13 Tee Higgins 30 Yd pass from Trevor Lawrence (B.T. Potter Kick)		31
1 play, 30 yards, 0:07	3	
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
CLEM TD 10:40 Frank Ladson Jr. 10 Yd pass from Trevor Lawrence (B.T. Potter Kick)		38
9 plays, 60 yards, 4:20	3	
CLEM TD 7:05 Lyn-J Dixon 9 Yd Run (B.T. Potter Kick)		45
6 plays, 86 yards, 2:26	3	
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
CLEM TD 11:49 Joe Ngata 21 Yd pass from Chase Brice (B.T. Potter Kick)		52
8 plays, 71 yards, 3:08	3	

Team Stats	WAKE	CLEM
First Downs	5	26
Passes for First	2	15
Rushes for First	3	10
Penalties for First	0	1
Third Down Efficiency	2-13	4-11
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-1
Total Yards	105	516
Total Plays	51	73
Avg Gain Per Play	2.1	7.1
Net Yards Rushing	64	168
Rushes	37	38
Yards Per Rush	1.7	4.4
Net Yards Passing	41	348
Comp-Att	6-14	26-35
Yards Per Pass	2.9	9.9
Times Sacked	2	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-17	-26
Interceptions	2	1
Punts	9	4
Punt Average	57.7	41.8
Penalties	3	4
Penalty Yards	25	35
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	27:25	32:35

**Individual Stats**

<b>RUSHING</b>					
WAKE FOREST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Kendrell Flowers	9	27	3.0	0	7
Jamie Newman	12	19	1.6	0	10
Kenneth Walker III	6	16	2.7	0	8
Christian Beal-Smith	5	7	1.4	0	4
Cade Carney	3	2	0.7	0	2
Tayvon Bowers	2	-7	-3.5	0	1
CLEMSON	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Travis Etienne	16	121	7.6	1	25
Lyn-J Dixon	6	34	5.7	1	22
Michel Dukes	3	18	6.0	0	15
Darien Rencher	3	13	4.3	0	9
Ben Batson	1	5	5.0	0	5
Chester Mellusi	2	5	2.5	0	4
Will Swinney	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
Trevor Lawrence	5	-4	-0.8	0	12
Will Spiers	1	-21	-21.0	0	0

<b>PASSING</b>							
WAKE FOREST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jamie Newman	6	14	41	2.9	0	2	2.2
CLEMSON	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Trevor Lawrence	21	27	272	10.1	4	0	76.8
Chase Brice	5	8	76	9.5	1	1	64.6

<b>RECEIVING</b>					
WAKE FOREST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Kendall Hinton	2	17	8.5	0	10
Donavon Greene	2	12	6.0	0	7
Jack Freudenthal	1	8	8.0	0	8
Cade Carney	1	4	4.0	0	4
CLEMSON	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tee Higgins	4	64	16.0	3	30
Lyn-J Dixon	2	62	31.0	0	55
Diondre Overton	4	52	13.0	0	23
Joe Ngata	2	42	21.0	1	21
Travis Etienne Jr.	3	37	12.3	0	18
Frank Ladson Jr.	2	20	10.0	1	10
Justyn Ross	3	18	6.0	0	8
T.J. Chase	1	15	15.0	0	15
Davis Allen	1	15	15.0	0	15
Darien Rencher	1	12	12.0	0	12
J.C. Chalk	3	11	3.7	0	9