

WEEK THIRTEEN
TENNESSEE at MISSOURI

Tennessee clinches bowl berth, beats Missouri 24-20

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Tennessee quarterback Jarrett Guarantano has endured insults and injury during a topsy-turvy junior season. He persevered, and on Saturday night he threw for 415 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Volunteers to a 24-20 victory over Missouri.

With its fourth straight win, Tennessee (6-5, 4-3 Southeastern Conference) is bowl eligible for the first time since 2016. Missouri (5-6, 2-5) has lost its last five.

After coming off the bench the previous six games, Guarantano started the game and completed 23 of 40 passes.

"When you play against these guys, the different looks they give you, you're going to have to check at the line of scrimmage, and he absolutely gives us the best chance to do that," Tennessee coach Jeremy Pruitt said. "And, hey, we've got confidence in him. He's got everything you need to be a good quarterback, and tonight was far and away his best game."

Tennessee had three players with more than 100 receiving yards, a program first. Josh Palmer had six receptions for 124 yards. Jauan Jennings added five catches for 115 yards and a touchdown, and Marquez Callaway had six catches for 110 yards and a touchdown.

Missouri's Kelly Bryant completed 16 of 28 passes for 166 yards and a touchdown. Running back Tyler Badie had two touchdown catches, including one from wide receiver Micah Wilson on a trick play.

"They battled, they competed, they fought, and we came up short," Missouri coach Barry Odom said. "And I hate it that it resulted in a loss."

The Tigers cut Tennessee's lead to 24-20 with Tucker McCann's second field goal with 4:02 left. But the Volunteers defense, led by Daniel Bituli's 12 tackles and a sack, stopped Missouri on its final drive.

Tennessee outgained Missouri 526-280 and converted 9 of 16 third downs.

BIG PICTURE

Tennessee: After starting the season with home losses to Georgia State and BYU, the Volunteers clinched bowl eligibility for the first time since 2016. Tennessee's only losses since those two early defeats came against current Top 10 teams Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

Missouri: The Tigers were 5-1 and ranked 22nd entering their Oct. 19 game at Vanderbilt. A loss to the Commodores began a slide that has led to questions about coach Barry Odom's job security. Odom is 24-25 in four seasons at his alma mater. He has a chance to even his record and secure bowl eligibility against struggling Arkansas.

EARNING THEIR YARDS

Missouri linebacker Nick Bolton briefly knocked Jennings out of the game in the second quarter with a hit near the goal line when Jennings was running the ball as a wildcat quarterback. Bolton hit Callaway in the midsection in the second quarter, and Callaway remained on the turf for several minutes before returning a few plays later. ... Missouri safety Tyree Gillespie drilled Palmer in the fourth quarter on a pass over the middle.

SECOND STRING

Missouri senior cornerback DeMarkus Acy missed the game with a hamstring injury. ... Fellow starting cornerback Jarvis Ware got hurt on the first series and didn't return. Backup cornerback Adam Sparks was shaken in the second half, which led to playing time for true freshman Chris Shearin. ... Missouri's top receivers, Johnathon Johnson and Albert Okwuegbunam, didn't play because of shoulder issues.

ON THE REBOUND

Guarantano had started the first four games of the season, but he and the team struggled. He broke a bone in his left hand midway through the season, had surgery and played with a brace. He played well off the bench to help the Volunteers rebound from a 1-4 start.

THEY SAID IT

Guarantano thanking his teammates after the game: "There were so many guys who were there for me throughout the death threats, the mean messages to my sister. They were all there for me, and it really meant a lot. There were some hectic times for me, and they were there for me every step of the way, like I was for them in the past. I hope I'm able to pay them back the way I did tonight."

Pruitt about the Volunteers becoming bowl eligible: "I'm excited for our players, especially our seniors. When we came in after the Florida game, we're sitting 1-4, and we said, 'We're going to make a bowl. How are we going to do it?' We had one of those meetings. And those guys backed up what they said they were going to do."

WAITING FOR FINAL DECISION

Missouri was hit in January with an NCAA postseason ban for academic violations committed before Odom took over as coach, but the school is appealing the ban and the NCAA has yet to rule on the appeal.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
TENN	0	17	7	0	24
MIZ	3	7	7	3	20

Scoring Summary -----

	TENN	MIZ
FIRST QUARTER		
MIZ FG 8:50 Tucker McCann 30 Yd Field Goal		3
11 plays, 57 yards, 4:28	0	
SECOND QUARTER		
TENN TD 12:49 Quavaris Crouch 1 Yd Run (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	7	3
9 plays, 86 yards, 4:34		
MIZ TD 9:31 Tyler Badie 7 Yd pass from Kelly Bryant (Tucker McCann Kick)		10
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:18	7	
TENN TD 1:32 Jauan Jennings 16 Yd pass from Jarrett Guarantano (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	14	10
13 plays, 75 yards, 6:06		
TENN FG 0:00 Brent Cimaglia 27 Yd Field Goal	17	10
5 plays, 66 yards, 0:38		
THIRD QUARTER		
MIZ TD 8:40 Tyler Badie 15 Yd pass from Micah Wilson (Tucker McCann Kick)	17	17
8 plays, 55 yards, 3:19		
TENN TD 0:22 Marquez Callaway 17 Yd pass from Jarrett Guarantano (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	24	17
8 plays, 77 yards, 3:03		
FOURTH QUARTER		
MIZ FG 8:27 Tucker McCann 33 Yd Field Goal	24	20
9 plays, 57 yards, 4:02		

Team Stats	TENN	MIZ
First Downs	26	16
Passes for First	18	6
Rushes for First	4	9
Penalties for First	4	1
Third Down Efficiency	9-16	4-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	2-2
Total Yards	526	280
Total Plays	73	66
Avg Gain Per Play	7.2	4.2
Net Yards Rushing	111	99
Rushes	32	37
Yards Per Rush	3.5	2.7
Net Yards Passing	415	181
Comp-Att	23-41	17-29
Yards Per Pass	10.1	6.2
Times Sacked	1	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-11	-23
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	4	7
Punt Average	39.5	44.1
Penalties	7	7
Penalty Yards	60	70
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	31:39	28:21

Individual Stats

RUSHING

TENNESSEE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tim Jordan	14	74	5.3	0	17
Ty Chandler	5	23	4.6	0	11
Jarrett Guarantano	5	11	2.2	0	12
Eric Gray	2	5	2.5	0	3
Quavaris Crouch	1	1	1.0	1	1
Jauan Jennings	3	1	0.3	0	1
Team	2	-4	-2.0	0	0
MISSOURI	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Larry Rountree III	16	43	2.7	0	11
Tyler Badie	9	35	3.9	0	14
Kelly Bryant	10	18	1.8	0	11
Jamal Brooks	1	2	2.0	0	2
Dawson Downing	1	1	1.0	0	1

PASSING

TENNESSEE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jarrett Guarantano	23	40	415	10.4	2	0	87.4
Brian Maurer	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	1.2
MISSOURI	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kelly Bryant	16	28	166	5.9	1	0	31.9
Micah Wilson	1	1	15	15.0	1	0	99.8

RECEIVING

TENNESSEE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Josh Palmer	6	124	20.7	0	33
Jauan Jennings	5	115	23.0	1	51
Marquez Callaway	6	110	18.3	1	31
Dominick Wood-Anderson	3	24	8.0	0	20
Tim Jordan	1	22	22.0	0	22
Ty Chandler	1	12	12.0	0	12
Eric Gray	1	8	8.0	0	8
MISSOURI	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Barrett Banister	5	46	9.2	0	23
Jalen Knox	2	33	16.5	0	33
Daniel Parker Jr.	4	25	6.3	0	7
Niko Hea	2	24	12.0	0	16
Tyler Badie	2	22	11.0	2	15
Kam Scott	1	21	21.0	0	21
Jonathan Nance	1	10	10.0	0	10