

WEEK TWO
MURRAY ST at GEORGIA

No. 3 Georgia romps to 63-17 victory over FCS Murray State

ATHENS, Ga. -- On a sweltering day, Georgia took a while to get going.

By halftime, the Bulldogs could start cooling down.

D’Andre Swift ran for two touchdowns, Jake Fromm threw for 166 yards and a score, and No. 3 Georgia broke loose in the second quarter for a 63-17 rout of FCS school Murray State on Saturday. With temperatures climbing into the mid-90s, the Bulldogs (2-0) were tied 7-7 after giving up a long touchdown pass.

But they erupted for a 35-point barrage in the second period.

“We were just kind of ready to go,” Fromm said. “We weren’t playing as clean as we wanted. But we settled down, settled in and played some ball.”

Brian Herrien ran 2 yards for the go-ahead score. J.R. Reed scooped up a fumble and went 14 yards for a touchdown. Swift tacked on a 10-yard TD run. Fromm hooked up with freshman George Pickens on a 15-yard scoring play. Finally, redshirt freshman Zamir White darted for a 6-yard score, sending Georgia to the locker room with a 42-7 lead.

Fromm, Swift and most of the starters were able to take the rest of the day off, giving Georgia a chance to give some of its young prospects their first extensive playing time.

“We definitely got to see some young guys in there,” Swift said. “I’m glad.”

Fromm completed his last nine passes and finished 10 of 11. Swift rushed for 67 yards on just six carries. Pickens hauled in a 43-yard catch with a diving, somersaulting effort and finished with four receptions for 78 yards.

Preston Rice was effective against Georgia’s defense, completing 20 of 25 for 216 yards. But Murray State (1-1) rushed for just 23 yards.

The Bulldogs had 269 yards on the ground, led by White with 72 yards on eight carries. Freshman Kenny Atkinson showed off the backfield depth with nine carries for 61 yards.

Georgia jumped ahead less than 2 minutes into the game, ripping off a four-play, 56-yard drive that was aided by a pass interference penalty. Swift powered over from 3 yards out.

The Bulldogs were forced to punt on their second possession, and Murray State stunned the crowd when Price hit DaQuon Green on a slant cutting over the middle. He beat one man and outran two others for a 60-yard TD that tied the game.

There were nervous groans when Georgia fumbled the ball away on its next possession, but it was only a matter of time before the overwhelming talent advantage took its toll on the Ohio Valley Conference school.

When Mark Webb knocked the ball away from Jared McCray and Reed took it to the end zone for Georgia’s second score in just 33 seconds, it was clear how this one would end.

“It doesn’t happen that often, so you’ve got to capitalize on your opportunities,” Reed said. “Good things come to those who are aggressive.”

FROMM’S BACKUP

No. 2 quarterback Stetson Bennett got on the field for the first time at Georgia, capping a long, strange journey that began as a walk-on in 2017.

Bennett completed 9 of 13 for 124 yards and two touchdowns, though he did have an interception that was returned 35 yards for a score by Nigel Walton.

“I’m happy he got to play,” Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. “He needs all the experience he can get. He can get reps in practice, but to go out in a game and play is important for his confidence.”

Bennett walked on at Georgia two years ago but only got to work on the scout team. He transferred to a Mississippi junior college last season year and appeared headed back to Division I at the University of Louisiana, only to end up back in Athens when the Bulldogs called with a scholarship offer after losing Justin Fields to Ohio State.

“He’s one play away from being out there,” Smart said of Bennett.

THE TAKEAWAY

Murray State: There were some encouraging signs for a team that never really had a chance against a Southeastern Conference powerhouse, at least providing hope that the Racers will be a factor in the Ohio Valley race. “It was a good performance for what we were doing in terms of executing the game plan,” Rice said. “I feel I executed to the best of my ability this week.”

Georgia: It’s hard to fathom what the Bulldogs gained from this game, other than sweating off some pounds and giving plenty of youngsters a chance to play. The most significant moment occurred before the kickoff when the school formally named the field at Sanford Stadium in honor of longtime coach Vince Dooley.

Final	1	2	3	4	T		
MURR	7	0	10	0	17		
UGA	7	35	7	14	63		
FIRST QUARTER							
UGA TD 13:37 D'Andre Swift 3 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)				0	7		
4 plays, 56 yards, 1:23							
MURR TD 6:36 Daquon Green 60 Yd pass from Preston Rice (Gabriel Vicente Kick)				7	7		
3 plays, 72 yards, 1:26							
SECOND QUARTER							
UGA TD 14:24 Brian Herrien 2 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)				7	14		
7 plays, 78 yards, 2:38							
UGA TD 13:51 J.R. Reed 14 Yd Fumble Return (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)				7	21		
2 plays, -11 yards, 0:33							
UGA TD 9:07 D'Andre Swift 10 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)				7	28		
4 plays, 41 yards, 2:18							
UGA TD 6:11 George Pickens 15 Yd pass from Jake Fromm (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)				7	35		
3 plays, 80 yards, 0:46							
UGA TD 2:11 Zamir White 6 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)				7	42		
4 plays, 36 yards, 1:34							
THIRD QUARTER							
MURR TD 9:33 Nigel Walton 35 Yd Interception Return (Gabriel Vicente Kick)				14	42		
4 plays, 16 yards, 2:21							
UGA TD 5:22 Demetris Robertson 15 Yd pass from Stetson Bennett (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)				14	49		
8 plays, 75 yards, 4:11							
MURR FG 1:18 Gabriel Vicente 26 Yd Field Goal				17	49		
10 plays, 66 yards, 4:04							
FOURTH QUARTER							
UGA TD 10:49 Dominick Blaylock 25 Yd pass from Stetson Bennett (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)				17	56		
12 plays, 75 yards, 5:29							
UGA TD 7:42 Stetson Bennett 1 Yd Run (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)				17	63		
3 plays, 30 yards, 1:27							
Team Stats							
First Downs		MURR		UGA			
Passes for First		11		25			
Rushes for First		9		12			
Penalties for First		2		12			
Third Down Efficiency		0		1			
Fourth Down Efficiency		6-16		8-10			
Total Yards		0-1		0-0			
Total Plays		284		561			
Avg Gain Per Play		60		65			
Net Yards Rushing		4.7		8.6			
Rushes		23		269			
Yards Per Rush		27		40			
Net Yards Passing		0.9		6.7			
Comp-Att		261		292			
Yards Per Pass		24-33		20-25			
Times Sacked		7.9		11.7			
Yds Lost To Sacks		6		1			
Interceptions		-53		-9			
Punts		1		1			
Punt Average		7		2			
Penalties		45.6		48.0			
Penalty Yards		5		5			
Fumbles		40		40			
Fumbles Lost		1		1			
Time of Poss		1		1			
		29:19		30:41			
Individual Stats							
RUSHING							
MURRAY ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Rodney Castille	5	8	1.6	0	3		
Jared McCray	5	7	1.4	0	7		
Brendan Bognar	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Michael Hiers	2	4	2.0	0	13		
Justin Connor	2	2	1.0	0	2		
Sylvaughn Turner	1	1	1.0	0	1		
Cory Thomas	1	0	0.0	0	0		
MJ Fuller	2	-1	-0.5	0	2		
Preston Rice	8	-4	-0.5	0	35		
GEORGIA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Zamir White	8	72	9.0	1	29		
D'Andre Swift	6	67	11.2	2	40		
Kenny McIntosh	9	61	6.8	0	26		
Brian Herrien	5	31	6.2	1	13		
James Cook	3	30	10.0	0	15		
Sevaughn Clark	4	13	3.3	0	7		
Prather Hudson	1	5	5.0	0	5		
Stetson Bennett	1	1	1.0	1	1		
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
Nathan Priestley	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
Jake Fromm	1	-9	-9.0	0	0		
PASSING							
MURRAY ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Preston Rice	20	25	216	8.6	1	0	--
Brendan Bognar	3	7	41	5.9	0	1	--
Michael Hiers	1	1	4	4.0	0	0	--
GEORGIA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jake Fromm	10	11	166	15.1	1	0	95.5
Stetson Bennett	9	13	124	9.5	2	1	81.8
Nathan Priestley	1	1	2	2.0	0	0	1.4
RECEIVING							
MURRAY ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Daquon Green	5	101	20.2	1	60		
Jacob Bell	2	55	27.5	0	50		
Tyre Gray	2	35	17.5	0	21		
Armani Hayes	2	24	12.0	0	15		
Sylvaughn Turner	2	13	6.5	0	8		
D'Andre McMillian	2	11	5.5	0	7		
Rodney Castille	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Brion Sanchious	2	7	3.5	0	6		
Ty Terrell	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Rajai Perkins	1	5	5.0	0	5		
Cory Thomas	1	4	4.0	0	4		
Justin Connor	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
Jared McCray	2	-7	-3.5	0	5		
GEORGIA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
George Pickens	4	78	19.5	1	43		
Eli Wolf	4	73	18.3	0	24		
Dominick Blaylock	3	48	16.0	1	25		
James Cook	2	27	13.5	0	19		
John FitzPatrick	1	22	22.0	0	22		
Demetris Robertson	3	21	7.0	1	15		
Matt Landers	1	12	12.0	0	12		
D'Andre Swift	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Willie Erdman	1	2	2.0	0	2		