

TEXAS BOWL
BAYLOR VS VANDERBILT

HOUSTON -- Before Baylor faced Vanderbilt in the Texas Bowl on Thursday night, coach Matt Rhule asked his players to think about where they were a year ago after the team finished 1-11.

After taking a moment to reflect on that, the Bears returned their focus to 2018 and finished an impressive turnaround with a huge performance from quarterback Charlie Brewer in a 45-38 win. Brewer threw for 384 yards and two touchdowns, the second a tiebreaking 52-yarder in the fourth quarter, and ran for 109 yards and another score.

Brewer, who was selected MVP, connected with Marques Jones for the 52-yard stroke that made it 45-38 with less than two minutes left. The Bears then stopped Vanderbilt on fourth-and-5 to secure the win.

Brewer's other touchdown pass was a 75-yarder earlier in the fourth quarter, and he scored on a 1-yard run in the third.

The Bears finished 7-6 a year after losing all but one game in Rhule's first season.

"They've just continued to evolve every week into a good team and battled through adversity," he said. "They did it by working hard and working together."

Brewer compared his first two seasons at Baylor.

"It feels a lot better to be in this position than in the position we were in last year," he said.

Vanderbilt (6-7) was led by Kyle Shurmur, who threw for 286 yards and a touchdown, and Ke'Shawn Vaughn, who ran for two touchdowns and set a Texas Bowl record with 243 yards rushing -- which ranks second in school history. Shurmur moved past Jay Cutler (8,697) for most career yards passing in school history with 8,865.

Vanderbilt coach Derek Mason raved about Brewer and was disappointed his team couldn't contain him.

"The dual threat at the quarterback position was huge tonight," Mason said. "He ran as well as their running backs did. The reality was, he was the difference in this ballgame. He was able to keep drives alive with his legs and that was tough for us."

Baylor led by three with about 10 1/2 minutes left when a pass intended for Denzel Mims bounced off him as he fell in the end zone and was intercepted by Randall Haynie, who grabbed the ball and stood on tiptoes before falling backward out of the end zone.

Two plays later, Vaughn ran 66 yards to get Vanderbilt to the 1, and Khari Blasingame ran it in on the next play to put the Commodores up 35-31. The Bears regained the lead when Trestan Ebner scored on a 75-yard catch and run on the first play of the next drive.

Vanderbilt tied it on a 33-yard field goal with 3 1/2 minutes remaining.

Ebner's 34-yard touchdown run gave Baylor a 24-21 lead early in the third quarter. The Bears padded the lead when Brewer scrambled for a 1-yard score with about five minutes left in the third.

Vanderbilt had a chance to cut the lead to three after that, but Jared Pinkney fumbled after a 32-yard reception and the Bears recovered it at their own 2. But Baylor couldn't move the ball and had to punt.

Shurmur threw a 52-yard pass to Amir Abdur-Rahman to get the Commodores to the 2-yard line, and Blasingame scored on the next play to get to 31-28 near the end of the third quarter.

The Commodores took a 7-0 lead when Shurmur connected with Blasingame on a short pass and dashed down the field for a career-long 65-yard touchdown reception on the third play of the game.

The Bears settled for a 23-yard field goal on their first drive before taking a 10-7 lead when John Lovett ran 12 yards for a touchdown with about two minutes left in the first quarter.

Vanderbilt went back on top 14-10 when Vaughn ran 68 yards for a touchdown late in the first.

JaMycal Hasty gave Baylor a 17-14 lead when he scored on an 18-yard run early in the second quarter.

But Vaughn's second long run came not long after that to make it 21-17. Vaughn broke a couple of tackles and then outran the rest of the defense for a 69-yard score. Jameson Houston dove at his feet near the 20-yard line, but barely clipped one of his legs and Vaughn didn't break his stride on the way to the end zone.

THE TAKEAWAY

Both teams showed power on offense but will need to improve on defense, especially in giving up big plays, if they hope to take another step next season.

HIGH PRAISE

Rhule interrupted Vaughn in the middle of an interview after the game to shake the running back's hand and congratulate him on his big game.

"I just want to tell you, that was as impressive as anything I've ever seen," Rhule told Vaughn. "That was really impressive. You're impressive on tape, too, but seeing you live -- that was impressive."

Vaughn was moved by the kind words.

"I've never had a coach from another team come and talk to me about my performance so it means a lot that I got his attention, too," he said.

Vaughn, a junior, said he hasn't decided yet if he'll declare for the NFL draft.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
BAY	10	7	14	14	45
VAN	14	7	7	10	38

Scoring Summary -----

	BAY	VAN
FIRST QUARTER		
VAN TD 14:04		
Khari Blasingame 65 Yd pass from Kyle Shurmur (Ryley Guay Kick)	0	7
3 plays, 65 yards, 0:56		
BAY FG 9:16		
Connor Martin 23 Yd Field Goal	3	7
12 plays, 69 yards, 4:48		
BAY TD 2:19		
John Lovett 12 Yd Run (Connor Martin Kick)	10	7
9 plays, 73 yards, 4:35		
VAN TD 0:23		
Ke'Shawn Vaughn 68 Yd Run (Ryley Guay Kick)	10	14
4 plays, 81 yards, 1:56		
SECOND QUARTER	BAY	VAN
BAY TD 11:33		
JaMycal Hasty 18 Yd Run (Connor Martin Kick)	17	14
8 plays, 75 yards, 3:50		
VAN TD 9:57		
Ke'Shawn Vaughn 69 Yd Run (Ryley Guay Kick)	17	21
3 plays, 81 yards, 1:36		
THIRD QUARTER	BAY	VAN
BAY TD 12:54		
Trestan Ebner 34 Yd Run (Connor Martin Kick)	24	21
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:06		
BAY TD 4:51		
Charlie Brewer 1 Yd Run (John Mayers Kick)	31	21
10 plays, 88 yards, 3:42		
VAN TD 0:16		
Khari Blasingame 2 Yd Run (Ryley Guay Kick)	31	28
3 plays, 54 yards, 1:24		
FOURTH QUARTER	BAY	VAN
VAN TD 9:31		
Khari Blasingame 1 Yd Run (Ryley Guay Kick)	31	35
3 plays, 80 yards, 1:00		
BAY TD 8:19		
Trestan Ebner 75 Yd pass from Charlie Brewer (John Mayers Kick)	38	35
1 play, 75 yards, 0:12		
VAN FG 3:30		
Ryley Guay 33 Yd Field Goal	38	38
13 plays, 59 yards, 5:49		
BAY TD 1:50		
Marques Jones 52 Yd pass from Charlie Brewer (John Mayers Kick)	45	38
4 plays, 75 yards, 1:40		

	BAY	VAN
Team Stats		
First Downs	30	22
Total Yards	668	573
Total Plays	81	62
Avg Gain Per Play	8.2	9.2
Net Yards Rushing	284	287
Rushes	46	24
Yards Per Rush	6.2	12.0
Net Yards Passing	384	286
Comp-Att	21-35	18-38
Yards Per Pass	11.0	7.5
Times Sacked	2	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-6	-3
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	1	2
Punt Average	47.0	39.5
Penalties	7	4
Penalty Yards	50	26
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	35:26	24:34

Individual Stats

RUSHING					
	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
BAY					
12 Charlie Brewer	16	109	6.8	38	1
25 Trestan Ebner	13	90	6.9	34	1
6 JaMycal Hasty	8	58	7.3	18	1
7 John Lovett	9	27	3.0	12	1
VAN					
5 Ke'Shawn Vaughn	13	243	18.7	69	2
83 C.J. Bolar	2	24	12.0	13	0
23 Khari Blasingame	4	16	4.0	10	2
14 Kyle Shurmur	4	14	3.5	8	0
4 Donaven Tennyson	1	-10	-10.0	0	0

PASSING							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
BAY							
12 Charlie Brewer	21	34	384	11.3	2	1	170.2
11 Gerry Bohanon	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
VAN							
14 Kyle Shurmur	18	37	286	7.7	1	0	122

RECEIVING						
	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
BAY						
25 Trestan Ebner	3	109	36.3	75	1	
15 Denzel Mims	6	95	15.8	31	0	
81 Tyquan Thornton	3	72	24.0	30	0	
84 Marques Jones	1	52	52.0	52	1	
21 Josh Fleeke	4	34	8.5	11	0	
87 Christoph Henle	2	11	5.5	6	0	
14 Chris Platt	1	7	7.0	7	0	
13 R.J. Sneed	1	4	4.0	4	0	
VAN						
23 Khari Blasingame	3	85	28.3	65	1	
80 Jared Pinkney	5	76	15.2	32	0	
87 Amir Abdur-Rahman	1	52	52.0	52	0	
83 C.J. Bolar	3	43	14.3	26	0	
16 Kalija Lipscomb	6	30	5.0	12	0	

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