

**CAMELLIA BOWL**  
**GEORGIA SOUTHERN AT EASTERN MICHIGAN**

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- Tyler Bass found a way to top his last-play 50-yard field goal to end the first half.

Bass kicked a 40-yarder as time expired to give Georgia Southern a 23-21 victory over Eastern Michigan in the Camellia Bowl on Saturday night.

Shai Werts kept the winning drive alive with a 29-yard scramble on fourth-and-10. Bass came on for his third field goal after Wesley Fields' two runs pushed Georgia Southern (10-3) 7 yards closer.

"Right when Shai got that first down, I knew we had a chance to kick it," Bass said. "We've been preparing all week for it, all year for it. When I got out there, I didn't think about anything but the snap, the hold and me just kicking it through. That was it."

Georgia Southern completed the biggest turnaround in the Football Bowl Subdivision this season, going from 10 losses to 10 wins.

"I said at the beginning of the year, we're not sexy, we're just blue collar," coach Chad Lunsford said. "That showed tonight."

Eastern Michigan (7-6) had delivered its own big fourth-down play to take the lead for the first time.

Mike Glass threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Arthur Jackson with 3:33 left on fourth-and-4, followed by Chad Ryland's extra point.

"It was a great football game, and they're obviously a great football program and a great football team," Eastern Michigan coach Chris Creighton said. "They got it done in the end. Much as it rips our heart out to say, we do congratulate them, and (it was) an awesome football game."

Georgia Southern took over at its own 25 with a triple-option offense that attempted fewer passes than every FBS team but Army. Werts completed a 15-yard pass to tight end Ellis Richardson, but Georgia Southern fittingly covered most of the 52 yards with runs.

Werts ran for 79 yards and two first-half touchdowns while completing 4 of 7 passes for 33 yards to receive Most Valuable Player honors. His biggest play came on the fourth-and-10.

"I really should have thrown the ball. Ellis was wide open," Werts said. "Wesley had made a block on the linebacker. There was nobody in front of me so I just took off running."

Wesley Kennedy III gained 107 yards on nine carries.

Eastern Michigan's Glass completed 17 of 25 passes for 204 yards and three touchdowns, including a 75-yarder to Jackson on the opening play of the second half. He had missed the final two games of the regular season with a right leg injury and had only two previous starts.

Glass found Jackson in the back of the end zone to cap a 16-play, 75-yard drive that consumed more than six minutes.

"I was just going through my reads and came back to it late," Glass said. "The linebacker stepped up a little bit and I saw I could get it over their heads."

As it turns out, it left too much time on the clock.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Georgia Southern: Ran for 331 yards on 58 carries. Finished the season without throwing an interception. Had its first 10-win season in FBS and second bowl win in as many tries.

Eastern Michigan: Had eight games decided by one score. Just missed its first eight-win season since going 10-2 in 1987.

**TURNOVER RECORD**

Georgia Southern set an NCAA FBS record with only five turnovers this season. The previous NCAA record was eight turnovers in a season by six teams, last done by LSU in 2017. The Eagles were the only FBS team that didn't throw an interception this season.

**THEY SAID IT**

"When we first got here this program was in shambles." Eastern Michigan defensive lineman Jeremiah Harris.

**CLOSE CAMELLIAS**

The five Camellia Bowls have been decided by a combined 17 points, including two winning, last-play field goals.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
GASO	7	10	0	6	23
EMU	0	7	7	7	21

**Scoring Summary -----**

	GASO	EMU
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
GASO TD 1:52		
Shai Werts 26 Yd Run (Tyler Bass Kick)		
15 plays, 95 yards, 9:01	7	0
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
EMU TD 7:53		
Tyler Lyle 1 Yd pass from Mike Glass III (Chad Ryland Kick)		
6 plays, 50 yards, 3:15	7	7
GASO TD 3:48		
Shai Werts 5 Yd Run (Tyler Bass Kick)		
7 plays, 82 yards, 4:05	14	7
GASO FG 0:00		
Tyler Bass 50 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 29 yards, 2:46	17	7
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
EMU TD 14:47		
Arthur Jackson III 75 Yd pass from Mike Glass III (Chad Ryland Kick)		
1 play, 75 yards, 0:13	17	14
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
GASO FG 9:49		
Tyler Bass 35 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 38 yards, 4:12	20	14
EMU TD 3:33		
Arthur Jackson III 5 Yd pass from Mike Glass III (Chad Ryland Kick)		
16 plays, 75 yards, 6:16	20	21
GASO FG 0:00		
Tyler Bass 40 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 52 yards, 3:33	23	21

Team Stats	GASO	EMU
First Downs	18	14
Total Yards	364	301
Total Plays	65	50
Avg Gain Per Play	5.6	6.0
Net Yards Rushing	331	97
Rushes	58	24
Yards Per Rush	5.7	4.0
Net Yards Passing	33	204
Comp-Att	4-7	17-26
Yards Per Pass	4.7	7.8
Times Sacked	1	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-2	-1
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	5	5
Punt Average	30.6	39.8
Penalties	4	4
Penalty Yards	25	25
Fumbles	3	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	37:38	22:22

**Individual Stats**

<b>RUSHING</b>							
GASO	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
12 Wesley Kennedy III	9	107	11.9	46	0		
21 Wesley Fields	23	91	4.0	7	0		
4 Shai Werts	16	79	4.9	29	2		
15 Monteo Garrett	7	37	5.3	12	0		
2 LaBaron Anthony	1	13	13.0	0	0		
81 Darion Anderson	1	6	6.0	6	0		
EMU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
26 Willie Parker	9	44	4.9	13	0		
25 Ian Eriksen	8	29	3.6	8	0		
9 Mike Glass III	6	21	3.5	14	0		
22 Karmi Mackey	1	3	3.0	3	0		
<b>PASSING</b>							
GASO	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
4 Shai Werts	4	7	33	4.7	0	0	96.7
EMU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
9 Mike Glass III	17	25	204	8.2	3	0	176.1
11 Isaac Holder	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
<b>RECEIVING</b>							
GASO	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
1 Ellis Richardson	1	15	15.0	15	0		
33 Malik Murray	1	13	13.0	13	0		
15 Monteo Garrett	2	5	2.5	3	0		
EMU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
89 Arthur Jackson III	3	86	28.7	75	2		
2 Blake Banham	6	44	7.3	14	0		
11 Isaac Holder	2	28	14.0	20	0		
80 Dylan Drummond	2	19	9.5	17	0		
87 Mathew Sexton	1	18	18.0	18	0		
22 Karmi Mackey	1	5	5.0	5	0		
26 Willie Parker	1	3	3.0	3	0		
43 Tyler Lyle	1	1	1.0	1	1		