

**CURE BOWL  
TULANE VS LOUISIANA**

ORLANDO, Fla. -- From a 2-5 start to Cure Bowl champions.

Tulane (7-6) capped a turnaround season under coach Willie Fritz with a 41-24 victory over Louisiana-Lafayette on Saturday, the Green Wave's first postseason win in 16 years.

Darius Bradwell rushed for a career-best 150 yards and two touchdowns and graduate transfer Justin McMillan improved to 5-1 as the team's starting quarterback by tossing a first-quarter TD pass to Terren Encalade and running for a late score in the 29th meeting in an intrastate rivalry that dates to 1911.

"Every game this season was kind of fourth-and-inches. Every one was tough," Fritz, completing his third year at the American Athletic Conference school, said. "Starting 2-5 and to come back and win this game is very special."

Bradwell scored on runs of 15 and 4 yards while setting bowl records for rushing attempts (35) and yards for Tulane (7-6), which won a bowl game for the first time since the 2002 Hawaii Bowl.

"We kept feeding him and he did a nice job getting vertical," Fritz said. "He's a hard guy to arm tackle at about 235 pounds."

The Green Wave also got a rushing TD from Amare Jones and outgained the Ragin' Cajuns 337 yards to 84 on the ground to improve to 23-6 all-time against the Rajun' Cajuns.

Louisiana-Lafayette coach Bill Napier said he didn't want the result to leave a "blackeye" on what the Sun Belt Conference runner-up accomplished in its first season under him.

"When our football team doesn't perform as well as we can it's 100 percent my responsibility," Napier said. "We're going to have the integrity to look in the mirror and adjust the things and fix the things we need to do."

The Ragin' Cajuns (7-7), coming off a loss to Appalachian State in the Sun Belt championship game, rallied from a 24-7 deficit to pull within three points on Jarrod Jackson's 15-yard TD reception with just over 10 minutes remaining.

McMillan put the game away, leading a 75-yard drive Bradwell finished with his second TD and later scoring himself on a 16-yard run that put Tulane up 41-24.

Andre Nunez completed 8 of 17 passes for 136 yards and one TD, however Louisiana-Lafayette's productive running tandem of Trey Ragas and Elijah Mitchell were not a factor after falling behind early.

"Very inefficient, in particular after the opening drive," which resulted in the Ragin' Cajuns taking a 7-0 lead on Raymond Calais' 38-yard touchdown run," Napier said.

"Today's outcome was a direct reflection who blocked better, who tackled better, who caught the ball better," Napier added. "There's nothing secret about what happened out there today."

Tulane won four of five down the stretch in the regular season to not only qualify for its first bowl berth in five years, but also finish with a winning record (5-3 AAC West Division) in league play for the first time since 2014.

McMillan was one of the keys, providing consistent quarterback play while throwing for more than 1,100 yards and accounting for 13 touchdowns -- nine passing and four rushing.

The graduate transfer from LSU, where he appeared on only two games from 2015-17, was 11 of 18 passing with one interception Saturday. He finished with 217 yards total offense -- 145 passing and 72 rushing.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Louisiana-Lafayette: Ragas rushed for nearly 1,200 yards and Mitchell fell just shy of 1,000 this season, however neither was a factor after the Ragin' Cajuns fell behind by double-digits. Ragas was limited to 40 yards on 10 carries, and Mitchell had 26 yards on six attempts and scored on a 3-yard run in the third quarter.

"You can't start slow in a big game like this and expect to overcome things like that," tight end Matt Barnes said. "We showed some fight and had opportunities to win the game."

Tulane: The Green Wave rushed for 483 yards and finished with a Cure Bowl-record and season-best 28 first downs. Bradwell topped 100 yards for the third time, finishing the season with 1,134 yards and 11 rushing TDs.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
TULN	21	3	3	14	41
ULL	7	3	7	7	24

**Scoring Summary -----**

FIRST QUARTER	TULN	ULL
LL TD 12:25 Raymond Calais 38 Yd Run (Kyle Pfau Kick) 6 plays, 75 yards, 2:35	0	7
TULN TD 9:49 Darius Bradwell 15 Yd Run (Merek Glover Kick) 7 plays, 75 yards, 2:36	7	7
TULN TD 5:21 Terren Encalade 38 Yd pass from Justin McMillan (Merek Glover Kick) 6 plays, 55 yards, 2:59	14	7
TULN TD 0:48 Amare Jones 1 Yd Run (Merek Glover Kick) 8 plays, 63 yards, 2:36	21	7
SECOND QUARTER	TULN	ULL
TULN FG 10:14 Merek Glover 38 Yd Field Goal 9 plays, 35 yards, 4:32	24	7
ULL FG 0:00 Kyle Pfau 43 Yd Field Goal 4 plays, 11 yards, 0:23	24	10
THIRD QUARTER	TULN	ULL
ULL TD 9:46 Elijah Mitchell 3 Yd Run (Kyle Pfau Kick) 6 plays, 62 yards, 1:50	24	17
TULN FG 2:58 Merek Glover 26 Yd Field Goal 12 plays, 73 yards, 4:51	27	17
FOURTH QUARTER	TULN	ULL
ULL TD 10:16 Jarrod Jackson 13 Yd pass from Andre Nunez (Kyle Pfau Kick) 4 plays, 56 yards, 1:04	27	24
TULN TD 3:49 Darius Bradwell 4 Yd Run (Merek Glover Kick) 13 plays, 75 yards, 6:27	34	24
TULN TD 3:06 Justin McMillan 16 Yd Run (Merek Glover Kick) 4 plays, 19 yards, 0:22	41	24

Team Stats	TULN	ULL
First Downs	28	11
Total Yards	482	258
Total Plays	86	55
Avg Gain Per Play	5.6	4.7
Net Yards Rushing	337	84
Rushes	68	30
Yards Per Rush	5.0	2.8
Net Yards Passing	145	174
Comp-Att	11-18	11-25
Yards Per Pass	8.1	7.0
Times Sacked	2	6
Yds Lost To Sacks	-10	-39
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	2	7
Punt Average	41.5	40.1
Penalties	1	1
Penalty Yards	5	15
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	40:31	19:29

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

TULN	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
10 Darius Bradwell	35	150	4.3	16	2
12 Justin McMillan	10	72	7.2	26	1
11 Amare Jones	6	63	10.5	33	1
6 Corey Dauphine	8	31	3.9	5	0
22 Stephon Huderson	6	26	4.3	8	0
ULL	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
4 Raymond Calais	3	41	13.7	38	1
9 Trey Ragas	10	40	4.0	14	0
15 Elijah Mitchell	6	26	4.3	6	1
17 Levi Lewis	2	-5	-2.5	7	0
7 Andre Nunez	9	-18	-2.0	6	0

**PASSING**

TULN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
12 Justin McMillan	11	18	145	8.1	1	1	136.0
ULL	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
7 Andre Nunez	8	17	136	8.0	1	0	133.7
17 Levi Lewis	3	7	38	5.4	0	1	59.9

**RECEIVING**

TULN	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
5 Terren Encalade	5	93	18.6	38	1
88 Jabril Clewis	2	17	8.5	9	0
84 Charles Jones II	1	15	15.0	15	0
46 Will Wallace	2	14	7.0	9	0
3 Darnell Mooney	1	6	6.0	6	0
ULL	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
13 Ryheem Malone	3	59	19.7	47	0
2 Ja'Marcus Bradley	2	51	25.5	26	0
10 Matt Barnes	3	29	9.7	18	0
9 Trey Ragas	1	15	15.0	15	0
20 Jarrod Jackson	1	13	13.0	13	1
15 Elijah Mitchell	1	7	7.0	7	0