

WEEK ONE
CHARLESTON SOUTHERN AT FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, Fla. -- Dan Mullen took a victory lap around Florida Field and then tossed his visor into the stands.

If all goes according to Mullen's plan, it could be quite a souvenir someday.

Feleipe Franks threw five touchdowns passes in the first half and Florida got the Mullen era off to rousing start with a 53-6 victory against overmatched Charleston Southern on Saturday night.

Franks, who managed just nine touchdowns passes in 11 games as a freshman in 2017, had five in less than 30 minutes of work against the lower-division Buccaneers.

"I wanted to make sure he got some confidence and made some plays," Mullen said.

Franks showed poise in the pocket and precision with every pass, attributes that eluded him under former coach Jim McElwain .

Maybe Franks is benefiting from Mullen, a deft play-caller who helped Alex Smith, Tim Tebow and Dak Prescott become college stars. Maybe Franks is thriving in a simplified offense and surrounded by more talent. Maybe Franks is a one-week wonder whose progress will be better measured next week against a Southeastern Conference team.

Whatever the case, Franks enjoyed the best game -- by far -- of his college career.

Mullen sure did. The former Mississippi State coach was all smiles in his debut with the Gators . Mullen, who was Florida's offensive coordinator during some of the most successful years (2005-08) in school history, returned to Gainesville with hopes of leading the school back to national prominence.

Mullen opened against a team from the Football Championship Sub-division, and it showed.

The Gators rolled up 354 yards in the first half and scored on six of seven possessions.

Franks connected for touchdowns with Ohio State transfer Trevon Grimes, Mississippi transfer Van Jefferson (twice), Josh Hammond and Tyrie Cleveland.

"We're just scratching the surface," Franks said. "We've got a long way to go."

His pass to Cleveland was the highlight of the night, a 3-yard jump pass that elicited memories of Mullen and Tebow in the Swamp .

"He threw it kind of hard," Mullen said of Franks. "You're supposed to put a little touch, a little finger roll right there. But we did a nice job catching it. It was kind of cool."

Little went wrong on either side of the ball for the Gators.

The defense allowed 225 yards, notched three sacks and forced three turnovers.

Franks completed 16 of 24 passes for 219 yards before giving way to backups in the second half. His five TDs were the most by a Florida player in a game since Tebow's college finale in the 2010 Sugar Bowl.

THE TAKEAWAY

Charleston Southern: Will get \$450,000 for the game, a nice payday that helps fund the program. Nonetheless, the Bucs fell to 0-20 against FBS teams and have been outscored 129-6 the last two years against Indiana (27-0), Mississippi State (49-0) and Florida.

Florida: Got a much-needed boost after finishing 4-7 last year, a season derailed by suspensions, injuries and McElwain's unusual exit. The Gators will get a better gauge of where they're at in league play.

SUSPENDED GATORS

Florida suspended seven players for the game , including senior defensive end Cece Jefferson and dynamic receiver Kadarius Toney. The team said the seven were punished for "not living up to the Gator standard."

Defensive tackles Kyree Campbell and Luke Ancrum, cornerback Brian Edwards, running back Adarius Lemons and walk-on offensive lineman James Washington also were suspended for the opener.

BENCHED STARTERS

Mullen benched three starters for a series to open the game. Left tackle Jawaan Taylor, defensive end Jachai Polite and linebacker Vosean Joseph were on the field for their second series.

EARLY EJECTION

Edward King's season opener lasted two plays. The Charleston Southern linebacker was ejected for targeting on the opening series. King speared Franks with the crown of his helmet. King was not flagged on the play, but he was ejected after the tackle was reviewed.

King, a sophomore from Hollywood, Florida, slammed his helmet to the concrete as he exited the stadium through the visiting tunnel.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
CHSO	0	0	0	6	6
FLA	10	28	13	2	53

Scoring Summary

Time	Team	Player	Yds	Plays	Time	CS	FLA
TD 12:40	FLA	Evan McPherson	21	8	1:38	0	10
TD 9:51	FLA	Van Jefferson	6	6	1:38	0	17
TD 5:49	FLA	Tyrie Cleveland	3	7	1:38	0	31
TD 1:38	FLA	Van Jefferson	3	5	1:53	0	38
FG 10:58	FLA	Evan McPherson	31	4	7:28	0	41
TD 7:28	FLA	Kyle Trask	12	5	4:48	0	48
FG 4:48	FLA	Jorge Powell	39	4	1:57	0	51
TD 13:40	FLA	Terrence Wilson	22	11	6:08	6	51
D2P 13:40	FLA	Austin Perry	Defensive PAT Conversion	11	6:08	6	53

Team Stats

Team	CS	FLA
First Downs	9	25
Total Yards	225	444
Total Plays	59	66
Avg Gain Per Play	3.8	6.7
Net Yards Rushing	222	203
Rushes	43	39
Yards Per Rush	5.2	5.2
Net Yards Passing	3	241
Comp-Att	5-16	19-27
Yards Per Pass	0.2	8.9
Times Sacked	1	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-6	-17
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	7	2
Punt Average	41.7	44.5
Penalties	6	3
Penalty Yards	50	20
Fumbles	4	3
Fumbles Lost	2	0

Individual Stats

RUSHING

Player	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
2 Ronnie Harris	8	83	10.4	70	0
1 London Johnson	14	72	5.1	27	0
26 Terrence Wilson	9	43	4.8	22	1
8 Jack Chambers	4	26	6.5	15	0
4 Geoffrey Wall	2	6	3.0	3	0
17 Adam Allen	2	5	2.5	3	0
25 Chanin Hamilton	1	2	2.0	2	0
14 Taz Lindsey	0	0	-	-	0

Florida

Player	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
29 Dameon Pierce	8	75	9.4	27	0
20 Malik Davis	6	38	6.3	16	0
13 Feleipe Franks	5	34	6.8	11	0
22 Lamical Perine	2	28	14.0	23	0
25 Jordan Scarlett	6	24	4.0	7	0
10 Josh Hammond	1	11	11.0	11	0
47 Isaac Ricks	1	9	9.0	9	0
11 Kyle Trask	3	7	2.3	12	1
24 Iverson Clement	5	5.0	5	0	0
29 Jeawon Taylor	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
5 Emory Jones	3	-4	-1.3	7	0

PASSING

Player	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
1 London Johnson	3	12	2	0.2	0	0	26.4
8 Jack Chambers	2	4	1	0.3	0	1	2.1
FLA	Comp	Att	Yds <th>Y/A</th> <th>TD</th> <th>Int</th> <th>QBRat</th>	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
13 Feleipe Franks	16	24	219	9.1	5	0	212.1
11 Kyle Trask	3	3	22	7.3	0	0	161.6
5 Emory Jones	0	0	0	-	0	0	-

RECEIVING

Player	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
14 Taz Lindsey	1	5	5.0	5	0
4 Geoffrey Wall	1	5	5.0	5	0
11 Kameron Brown	2	-3	-1.5	0	0
25 Chanin Hamilton	1	-4	-4.0	0	0
Florida	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
16 Freddie Swain	2	57	28.5	46	0
8 Trevon Grimes	3	50	16.7	34	1
12 Van Jefferson	4	34	8.5	13	2
7 Lucas Krull	2	33	16.5	30	0
88 Kemore Gamble	2	19	9.5	12	0
9 Dre Massey	1	18	18.0	18	0
89 Tyrie Cleveland	2	10	5.0	7	1
20 Malik Davis	1	8	8.0	8	0
10 Josh Hammond	1	6	6.0	6	1
83 Rick Wells	1	6	6.0	6	0
82 Moral Stephens	0	0	-	-	0