

WEEK ONE
ELON AT SOUTH FLORIDA

TAMPA, Fla. -- Blake Barnett may have finally found a football home.

Barnett threw three touchdown passes and ran for a fourth score in his South Florida debut and the Bulls beat Elon 34-14 in Saturday night's season opener.

The 6-foot-5, 217-pounder, the opening-game starter for Alabama two years ago who left the Crimson Tide in September 2016 and continued his career as a backup at Arizona State last season, completed 24 of 34 passes for 305 yards.

"I wouldn't say it's relief," Barnett said. "It's just preparation and time meeting an opportunity. This is the opportunity that I've really been waiting for. I was really ready for it."

Barnett is replacing USF's career total offense leader Quinton Flowers, who threw for 2,911 yards and 25 touchdowns while also rushing for 1,078 yards and 11 TDs last season.

"It's good for his confidence and good for the whole team" USF coach Charlie Strong said. "Tonight is just a start."

Backup Elon quarterback Jalen Greene entered in the third quarter and had a 12-yard rushing TD. Malcolm Summers had 62 yards on 15 carries, while starting QB Davis Cheek went 5 for 11 for 45 yards passing.

Barnett connected with Randall St. Felix on a 40-yard TD pass to cap USF's first possession, then hit St. Felix on a 52-yard completion that set up a 33-yard field goal by Jake Vivonetto for a 10-0 lead.

St. Felix gained 143 yards on seven receptions.

After Elon turned the ball over on its next possession, Barnett hit Tyre McCants for a 16-yard touchdown then connected with Mitchell Wilcox on a 14-yarder for a 24-0 halftime lead. Barnett added a 2-yard rushing score midway through the third quarter.

Greene scored late in the third before Brelynd Cyphers' 2-yard scoring run with 13 minutes left cut the Elon deficit to 31-14.

"We've got to learn how to finish," Strong said.

South Florida outgained Elon 515-234.

BIG PICTURE

Elon: The Phoenix dropped to 0-11 all-time against FBS opponents.

South Florida: The defense continued its opportunistic nature with two interceptions. The Bulls were ranked second nationally last season with 20 picks.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ELON	0	0	7	7	14
USF	7	17	7	3	34

Scoring Summary -----

	ELON	USF
FIRST QUARTER		
USF TD 8:33		
Randall St. Felix 40 Yd pass from Blake Barnett (Jake Vivonetto Kick)	0	7
5 plays, 70 yards, 1:15		
SECOND QUARTER		
USF FG 12:16		
Jake Vivonetto 33 Yd Field Goal		10
8 plays, 68 yards, 1:53	0	
USF TD 10:25		
Tyre McCants 16 Yd pass from Blake Barnett (Jake Vivonetto Kick)	0	17
2 plays, 25 yards, 0:00		
USF TD 5:35		
Mitchell Wilcox 14 Yd pass from Blake Barnett (Jake Vivonetto Kick)	0	24
8 plays, 80 yards, 2:39		
THIRD QUARTER		
USF TD 8:47		
Blake Barnett 2 Yd Run (Jake Vivonetto Kick)	0	31
16 plays, 86 yards, 6:13		
ELON TD 1:07		
Jalen Greene 12 Yd Run (Skyler Davis Kick)	7	31
5 plays, 60 yards, 2:29		
FOURTH QUARTER		
ELON TD 13:12		
Brelynd Cyphers 2 Yd Run (Skyler Davis Kick)	14	31
6 plays, 51 yards, 2:03		
USF FG 5:57		
Jake Vivonetto 41 Yd Field Goal	14	34
9 plays, 42 yards, 2:47		

Team Stats	ELON	USF
First Downs	16	27
Total Yards	234	515
Total Plays	61	84
Avg Gain Per Play	3.8	6.1
Net Yards Rushing	192	148
Rushes	49	38
Yards Per Rush	3.9	3.9
Net Yards Passing	42	367
Comp-Att	6-12	29-46
Yards Per Pass	3.5	8.0
Times Sacked	2	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	9	17
Interceptions	0	2
Punts	7	4
Punt Average	45.6	36.8
Penalties	6	7
Penalty Yards	40	55
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	33:12	26:48

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
ELON					
Jaylan Thomas	9	87	9.7	0	25
Malcolm Summers	15	62	4.1	0	22
Brelynd Cyphers	9	33	3.7	1	12
De'Sean McNair	7	13	1.9	0	4
Jalen Greene	4	7	1.8	1	12
Davis Cheek	5	-10	-2.0	0	4
USF					
Johnny Ford	8	43	5.4	0	8
Elijah Mack	10	33	3.3	0	10
Blake Barnett	8	31	3.9	1	18
Trevon Sands	5	22	4.4	0	14
Chris Oladokun	3	13	4.3	0	14
Dave Small	2	4	2.0	0	5
Jernard Phillips	1	2	2.0	0	2
Brett Kean	1	0	0.0	0	0

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
ELON							
Davis Cheek	5	11	45	4.1	0	2	--
Jalen Greene	1	1	-3	-3.0	0	0	--
USF							
Blake Barnett	24	34	305	9.0	3	0	90.9
Brett Kean	3	7	37	5.3	0	0	26.7
Chris Oladokun	2	5	25	5.0	0	0	19.3

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
ELON					
Kortez Weeks	2	24	12.0	0	14
Corey Joyner	1	7	7.0	0	7
Matt Foster	1	7	7.0	0	7
Cole Taylor	1	7	7.0	0	7
Bryson Daughtry	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
USF					
Randall St. Felix	7	143	20.4	1	52
Darnell Salomon	3	77	25.7	0	50
Mitchell Wilcox	4	45	11.3	1	14
Jernard Phillips	2	28	14.0	0	15
Tyre McCants	6	26	4.3	1	16
Stanley Clerveaux	3	19	6.3	0	7
Ryeshene Bronson	2	16	8.0	0	8
Zion Roland	1	9	9.0	0	9
Terrence Horne	1	4	4.0	0	4