

WEEK ONE  
LOUISVILLE AT ALABAMA

ORLANDO, Fla. -- Alabama doesn't rebuild. The Crimson Tide simply reload.

College Football Playoff hero Tua Tagovailoa threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third in his first college start, helping top-ranked and defending national champion Alabama open the season with a 51-14 rout of Louisville on Saturday night.

Essentially ending the debate -- at least for now -- about whether he or Jalen Hurts should be the Crimson Tide's No. 1 quarterback, Tagovailoa scored on a 9-yard run while also completing 12 of 16 passes for 227 yards without an interception.

"I thought there were a lot of things we did well and I also think there are a lot of things we need to fix," Alabama coach Nick Saban said.

"The effort of our players ... they executed very well on a lot of plays," Saban added. "I'm really proud of the way they came out and played and executed in the game. But I also think it's pretty obvious we need to do a lot of things better."

Although Tagovailoa came off the bench to lead Alabama to a come-from-behind victory over Georgia in the CFP championship game last January, Saban provided no public indication of the starter against Louisville until Tagovailoa trotted onto the field following the opening kickoff.

Saban said the decision to begin with the sophomore from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, was made earlier in the week, but the plan was to play Hurts, too. Saban said that's also his intention moving forward.

"I talked to the quarterbacks before practice on Thursday and they both knew exactly what the situation was going to be in the game," he said.

"I wanted Tua to play somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 plays and then we we're going to put Jalen in the game. It didn't matter when it was or what the score was," he added. "We wanted Tua to get the experience of running the two-minute (offense) so we put him back in there before the half. We're going to continue to have both these guys be weapons for us on offense because I think they can."

Saban grew a bit testy when he was asked by ESPN right after the win what he had learned about his quarterbacks. He said he liked both players and decried questions that he perceived were designed to draw critical comments about one of them.

Hurts threw for 2,081 yards and 17 touchdowns while rushing for 855 yards and eight more TDs a year ago. He was 26-2 as a starter over the past two seasons.

Saban maintained throughout preseason camp that Alabama was fortunate to have two quality quarterbacks and tried deflect attention from the QB debate by talking about the challenge the Crimson Tide faces in revamping a defense that lost eight starters from last season.

Tagovailoa was sacked on the game's second play, but pretty much had his way against the Louisville defense from there.

Jerry Jeudy had TD receptions of 11 and 25 yards, and Josh Jacobs scored on an 18-yard run and a 77-yard kickoff return for the Crimson Tide.

Hurts played two series in the first half and re-entered the game in the third quarter with the defending national champions up 41-7.

Jawon Pass, who is replacing 2016 Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson for Louisville, completed 20 of 39 passes for 252 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions, including TDs of 12 yards to Kemari Averett and 8 yards to Tutu Atwell. The redshirt sophomore's second interception was return 45 yards for a touchdown by Shyheim Carter

The Cardinals (0-1) fell to 0-4 all-time against teams ranked No. 1.

"The biggest thing we have to do from this is learn," coach Bobby Petrino said, adding that's one reason he played Pass the entire game.

"It was never a question of taking him out of the game. He needed to stay in and get all those reps," Petrino said. "He's going to have a great career here. This was a hard opener, there's no question about that."

FOR THE RECORD

Alabama has won 74 consecutive games against unranked teams under Saban. It's the longest streak in FBS history. The Crimson Tide hasn't lost to an unranked opponent since falling to Auburn in November 2007.

Petrino, meanwhile, is 0-5 vs. Alabama. He is 7-2 in season openers with Louisville.

HE DID SOME GOOD THINGS, TOO

Hurts directed a field goal drive in the third quarter, finishing 5-of-9 passing for 70 yards and no interceptions. He rushed for 9 yards on 3 attempts. Redshirt freshman Mac Jones played much of the fourth quarter for the Crimson Tide.

THE TAKEAWAY

Louisville: It was a tough night for the Cardinals, who were limited to just 16 yards rushing while being outgained 517 yards to 268. The good news is it looks as if they have a chance to be as good throwing the ball as they were during the Jackson era.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
LOU	0	0	7	7	14
ALA	14	14	16	7	51

Scoring Summary -----

	LV	ALA
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
TD 11:55		
Jerry Jeudy 11 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Austin Jones Kick)		
7 plays, 65 yards, 3:05	0	7
TD 4:04		
Tua Tagovailoa 9 Yd Run (Austin Jones Kick)		
6 plays, 55 yards, 2:00	0	14
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
TD 11:24		
Najee Harris 1 Yd Run (Austin Jones Kick)		
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:52	0	21
TD 0:09		
Jerry Jeudy 25 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Austin Jones Kick)		
3 plays, 25 yards, 0:18 0	28	
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
TD 10:03		
Josh Jacobs 18 Yd Run (Austin Jones PAT failed)		
4 plays, 63 yards, 1:07	0	34
TD 6:27		
Kemari Averett 12 Yd pass from Jawon Pass (Blanton Creque Kick)		
10 plays, 75 yards, 3:36 7	34	
TD 6:16		
Josh Jacobs 77 Yd Kickoff Return (Austin Jones Kick)		
0 plays, 0 yards, 0:11 7	41	
FG 0:45		
Austin Jones 39 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 37 yards, 3:16 7	44	
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
TD 7:31		
Shyheim Carter 45 Yd Interception Return (Austin Jones Kick)		
1 play, 0 yards, 0:13	7	51
TD 1:55		
Kemari Averett 8 Yd pass from Jawon Pass (Blanton Creque Kick)		
5 plays, 52 yards, 1:44	14	51

Team Stats	LV	ALA
First Downs	20	23
Total Yards	268	519
Total Plays	65	68
Avg Gain Per Play	4.1	7.6
Net Yards Rushing	16	222
Rushes	26	42
Yards Per Rush	0.6	5.3
Net Yards Passing	252	297
Comp-Att	20-39	17-26
Yards Per Pass	6.5	11.4
Times Sacked	1	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-6	-12
Interceptions	2	0
Punts	8	3
Punt Average	43.3	36.3
Penalties	11	10
Penalty Yards	93	111
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1

Individual Stats

RUSHING

LV	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
12 Trey Smith	4	11	2.8	7	0
33 Colin Wilson	2	6	3.0	6	0
25 Dae Williams	9	6	0.7	4	0
19 Hassan Hall	2	4	2.0	3	0
4 Jawon Pass	8	-22	-2.8	11	0
<b>Alabama</b>					
34 Damien Harris	7	55	7.9	32	0
8 Josh Jacobs	6	45	7.5	18	1
24 Brian Robinson Jr.	7	42	6.0	10	0
22 Najee Harris	8	30	3.8	12	1
13 Tua Tagovailoa	5	26	5.2	9	1
5 Ronnie Clark	3	10	3.3	4	0
2 Jalen Hurts	3	9	3.0	3	0
27 Jerome Ford	2	4	2.0	3	0
10 Mac Jones	1	1	1.0	1	0

PASSING

LV	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
4 Jawon Pass	20	39	252	6.5	2	2	112.2
<b>ALA</b>							
ALA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
13 Tua Tagovailoa	12	16	227	14.2	2	0	235.4
2 Jalen Hurts	5	9	70	7.8	0	0	120.9
10 Mac Jones	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

RECEIVING

LV	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
5 Seth Dawkins	3	68	22.7	47	0
7 Dez Fitzpatrick	3	40	13.3	19	0
12 Trey Smith	2	31	15.5	27	0
11 Kemari Averett	4	30	7.5	12	2
1 Chatarius Atwell	1	30	30.0	30	0
83 Micky Crum	3	24	8.0	13	0
9 Jaylen Smith	1	22	22.0	22	0
86 Devante Peete	1	15	15.0	15	0
25 Dae Williams	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
66 Cole Bentley	1	-7	-7.0	0	0
<b>Alabama</b>					
ALA	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
6 Devonta Smith	4	99	24.8	28	0
17 Jaylen Waddle	3	66	22.0	49	0
4 Jerry Jeudy	4	64	16.0	25	2
82 Irv Smith Jr.	2	39	19.5	32	0
34 Damien Harris	1	14	14.0	14	0
11 Henry Ruggs III	1	9	9.0	9	0
10 Mac Jones	1	6	6.0	6	0
22 Najee Harris	1	0	0.0	0	0