

WEEK TWO
FLORIDA STATE AT SAMFORD

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Florida State paid Samford \$500,000 looking for a guaranteed win. The Seminoles got a victory -- but quite the run for their money.

Deondre Francois threw for 320 yards and three touchdowns, including the game-winning score to Tre' McKitty with 4:03 to go, as Florida State held off Samford 36-26 on Saturday.

Trailing 26-21, Francois led the Seminoles (1-1) on an 11-play, 82-yard drive that put them ahead for the first time this season. Francois connected with McKitty for the 5-yard touchdown, and he then found Nyqwan Murray for the two-point conversion pass as Florida State went ahead 29-26.

Florida State scored its final 15 points in a span of just 1:40. The win was the first at Florida State for Willie Taggart, who opened with a 24-3 loss to Virginia Tech on Monday.

"It wasn't pretty but it was good to see our guys find a way to come back and get a win after we started slow and weren't playing as well," Taggart said.

Samford's Devlin Hodges threw for 475 yards and a pair of touchdown passes to Kelvin McKnight but tossed four interceptions. Levonta Taylor returned the last one 63 yards for a touchdown with 2:23 to go.

Hodges completed 39 of 60 passes for Samford (1-1). It was one of the best games of his career, just short of the school-record 516 yards he threw for last season against Western Carolina.

"We just fought all the way there until the end," Samford coach Chris Hatcher said. "We had a couple of bounces that didn't go our way. We had a couple of turnovers that really hurt us."

Francois completed 31 of 46 passes for 320 yards, including a pair of touchdown passes to redshirt freshman Tamorrion Terry. The junior quarterback had his sixth career 300-yard game, completed passes to eight receivers and also had an 8-yard touchdown run.

"Any win is a good win no matter who you're playing," Francois said. "We're going to get the mistakes corrected."

McKnight caught 14 passes for 215 yards, including touchdowns from 54 yards and 27 yards, for the Bulldogs. Samford last defeated an FBS team in 2013, when the Bulldogs won at Georgia State. Florida State has never lost to an FCS program.

Cam Akers had 14 carries for 76 yards and a team-high seven receptions for 38 yards. Florida State finished with 134 rushing yards on 35 carries.

Ricky Aguayo missed a pair of field-goal attempts, including a 42-yarder with 9:59 left that hit the right upright.

Florida State's defense bent early but was effective in the second half. The Seminoles grabbed three interceptions, forced three punts and allowed just a field goal in the final 30 minutes. Florida State forced five turnovers after not recording one in the loss to Virginia Tech.

The start of the game was delayed one hour, 25 minutes due to weather.

The Seminoles played without their top lineman, right tackle Landon Dickerson (ankle). Another lineman, Abdul Bello, also missed the game with an undisclosed injury. Arthur Williams, who converted from defensive tackle in August, got the start at left guard.

THE TAKEAWAY

Florida State: The Seminoles are 24-0 against FCS teams since 1978.

Samford: The Bulldogs pushed Florida State to the limit and led for more than 55 minutes.

pass just minutes into the game.

"He's been wanting to run this double move all year and so called it 'spear' and it worked pretty good," Hatcher said.

HODGES CLEARS 11,000

The Samford senior surpassed 11,000 career passing yards on Saturday. Hodges now has 11,106 passing yards and 86 touchdown passes.

He is closing in on Southern Conference leader Scott Riddle, who threw for 13,264 at Elon from 2007-10. The FCS all-time leader is former Alcorn State star Steve McNair, who threw for 14,496 yards from 1991-94.

"I think it gives us a lot of confidence," Hodges said of the performance against the Seminoles. "I'm just proud of the guys."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
SAM	16	7	0	3	26
FSU	7	14	0	15	36

Scoring Summary -----

	SAM	FSU
FIRST QUARTER		
SAM TD 12:23		
Kelvin McKnight 54 Yd pass from Devlin Hodges (Two-Point Run Conversion Failed)		
1 play, 54 yards, 0:08	6	0
SAM TD 7:49		
Roland Adams 2 Yd Run (Mitchell Fineran Kick)		
7 plays, 75 yards, 2:5	13	0
FSU TD 4:03		
Tamorrion Terry 27 Yd pass from Deondre Francois (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
3 plays, 58 yards, 0:39	13	7
SAM FG 1:32		
Mitchell Fineran 30 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 62 yards, 2:31	16	7
SECOND QUARTER		
FSU TD 13:56		
Deondre Francois 8 Yd Run (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
8 plays, 70 yards, 2:29	16	14
SAM TD 8:37		
Kelvin McKnight 27 Yd pass from Devlin Hodges (Mitchell Fineran Kick)		
6 plays, 87 yards, 1:30	23	14
FSU TD 1:19		
Tamorrion Terry 17 Yd pass from Deondre Francois (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
2 plays, 25 yards, 0:25	23	21
FOURTH QUARTER		
SAM FG 7:58		
Mitchell Fineran 36 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 56 yards, 2:01	26	21
FSU TD 4:03		
Tre' McKitty 5 Yd pass from Deondre Francois (Deondre Francois Pass to Nyqwan Murray for Two-Point Conversion)		
11 plays, 82 yards, 3:49	26	29
FSU TD 2:23		
Levonta Taylor 63 Yd Interception Return (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
5 plays, 34 yards, 1:40	26	36

Team Stats	SAM	FSU
First Downs	23	25
Total Yards	525	454
Total Plays	79	81
Avg Gain Per Play	6.6	5.6
Net Yards Rushing	50	134
Rushes	19	35
Yards Per Rush	2.6	3.8
Net Yards Passing	475	320
Comp-Att	39-60	31-46
Yards Per Pass	7.9	7.0
Times Sacked	0	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-8
Interceptions	4	0
Punts	5	7
Punt Average	35.0	46.4
Penalties	5	9
Penalty Yards	51	69
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Possession	27:51	32:09

Individual Stats

RUSHING						
SAM	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
20 Roland Adams	9	34	3.8	8	1	
9 Moise Satine	4	26	6.5	21	0	
85 Montrell Washington	3	2	0.7	2	0	
11 Andrew Harris	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	
FSU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
3 Cam Akers	14	76	5.4	14	0	
9 Jacques Patrick	13	44	3.4	13	0	
12 Deondre Francois	5	15	3.0	12	1	
22 Amir Rasul	1	2	2.0	2	0	

PASSING							
SAM	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
8 Devlin Hodges	39	60	475	7.9	2	4	129.2
FSU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
12 Deondre Francois	31	46	320	7.0	3	0	147.3

RECEIVING						
SAM	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
6 Kelvin McKnight	14	215	15.4	54	2	
11 Andrew Harris	5	122	24.4	55	0	
1 Chris Shelling	5	70	14.0	26	0	
84 Clarke Miller	4	28	7.0	14	0	
3 Kentre'vius Williams	3	20	6.7	11	0	
20 Roland Adams	2	12	6.0	9	0	
88 Kevin Marion	2	5	2.5	5	0	
19 Jai'Rus Creamer	1	3	3.0	3	0	
9 Moise Satine	3	0	0.0	2	0	
FSU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
8 Nyqwan Murray	6	63	10.5	27	0	
6 Tre' McKitty	5	59	11.8	21	1	
15 Tamorrion Terry	2	44	22.0	27	2	
3 Cam Akers	7	38	5.4	25	0	
9 Jacques Patrick	2	37	18.5	20	0	
11 George Campbell	2	36	18.0	26	0	
29 D.J. Matthews	5	32	6.4	17	0	
89 Keith Gavin	2	11	5.5	8	0	