

WEEK TWO
GEORGIA TECH AT SOUTH FLORIDA

TAMPA, Fla. -- Blake Barnett's never fancied himself as much of a runner.

"Even in high school, when I was listed as a dual-threat," South Florida's graduate transfer said, "I wanted to be (known as) a pocket passer."

The Bulls (2-0) are learning the former Alabama and Arizona State quarterback can impact games with his feet, too. Barnett rushed for two touchdowns and threw for two more Saturday, helping USF come from behind to beat Georgia Tech 49-38 before an announced crowd of 34,182 at Raymond James Stadium.

"I just want to do what I can to help this team," said Barnett, who completed 21 of 31 passes for 202 yards with one interception. He also rushed for a team-best 91 yards on 16 attempts.

"The thing about Blake is I think he wants to prove that he can really play," coach Charlie Strong said. "You think about it, three years ago, he was the No. 1 quarterback (coming of high school). Then he goes to Alabama, and he goes to Arizona State and he kind of disappears. ... You know can he can throw the ball, and if he needs to move the chains with his feet, he can do that, too."

The Bulls rallied from a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit, drawing within 38-35 on Barnett's 3-yard TD pass to Terrence Horne. They took lead for good on Barnett's 19-yard run with just over five minutes to go, then put the game out of reach with a 5-yard scoring run setup by linebacker Tico Sawtelle's interception.

Sawtelle also recovered a fourth-quarter fumble that stopped a promising Georgia Tech drive.

Horne, meanwhile, also scored on first-quarter kickoff returns of 98 and 97 yards for USF, which continued an impressive stretch of success against Power 5 conference teams.

"You create your own luck. You got to make plays," said Yellow Jackets coach Paul Johnson, whose team played the last three quarters without safety Tariq Carpenter, who was ejecting for targeting.

"When you have a chance, you need to make plays," Johnson added, bemoaning missed opportunities on defense. "Same thing on offense. When you have the chance, you need to make plays. And, you got to hold on to the ball."

Barnett, who started Alabama's season opener before leaving the Crimson Tide in September 2016, won the battle to succeed USF career passing leader Quinton Flowers in fall camp after spending last year as a backup at Arizona State.

The elusive and speedy Flowers was one of the top dual-threat quarterbacks in the nation over the past three years. At 6-foot-5, 217 pounds, Barnett is less of a threat to run, but has been effective when he chooses to take off.

"He's athletic," Strong said. "He has a lot more ability than people think."

TaQuon Marshall and Tobias Oliver keyed a 419-yard rushing attack for Georgia Tech (1-1), which was driving with a chance to restore a 10-point lead before Qua Searcy fumbled inside the USF 15 and Sawtelle recovered the loose ball at the 12.

Barnett took over from there, leading an 88-yard drive that ended with the 10th lead change of the game.

The USF quarterback finished 21 of 31 passing for 202 yards with one interception. He also had a team-high 91 rushing on 16 attempts.

Marshall threw for 183 yards and one TD for Georgia Tech. He also scored on a 45-yard run while sharing playing time with backup Oliver, who finished three long second-half drives with scoring runs of 5, 1 and 1 yard.

THE TAKEAWAY

Georgia Tech: Like USF, the Yellow Jackets didn't have a real good idea of where they stood after being barely tested in a 41-0 season-opening rout of Alcorn State. USF has one of the nation's most balanced offenses. The Bulls amassed 426 yards total offense Saturday, including 224 on the ground.

South Florida: After finishing the past two seasons ranked in the Top 25, the Bulls were hoping to show that their 23-4 record since the start of 2016 isn't a fluke and they're being built for long-term success.

IMPRESSIVE GROUND

Georgia Tech topped 400 yards rushing for the second straight week and sixth time in 13 games. The Yellow Jackets had three players with at least 95 yards, with Marshall going for 113 on 13 carries and Oliver gaining 97 on 18 attempts. Jordan Mason finished with 95 rushing on 13 carries, while Clinton Lynch had three receptions for 111 yards out of the backfield, including an 81-yard TD.

STEPPING UP

USF has won six of its last seven games against Power 5 opponents, including bowl victories over South Carolina and Texas Tech. The lone loss over that stretch was 20-point home loss to Florida State in 2016.

BACK AND FORTH

There were five lead changes in the first quarter alone, with two of them coming on Horne's kickoff returns. Barnett's 18-yard TD pass to Darnell Salomon put USF up 21-17 at the half, despite Georgia Tech outgaining the Bulls 265 yards to 169 up to that point.

Final	1	2	3	4	T		
GT	17	0	14	7	38		
USF	14	7	7	21	49		
Scoring Summary -----							
FIRST QUARTER							
GT FG 7:35							
Brenton King 35 Yd Field Goal				3	0		
9 plays, 33 yards, 6:32							
USF TD 7:23							
Terrence Horne 98 Yd Kickoff Return (Coby Weiss Kick)				3	7		
0 plays, 0 yards, 0:12							
GT TD 4:52							
TaQuon Marshall 45 Yd Run (Brenton King Kick)				10	7		
5 plays, 70 yards, 2:31							
USF TD 4:38							
Terrence Horne 97 Yd Kickoff Return (Coby Weiss Kick)				10	14		
0 plays, 0 yards, 0:14							
GT TD 4:21							
Clinton Lynch 81 Yd pass from TaQuon Marshall (Brenton King Kick)				17	14		
1 play, 81 yards, 0:17							
SECOND QUARTER							
USF TD 10:10							
Darnell Salomon 18 Yd pass from Blake Barnett (Coby Weiss Kick)				17	21		
11 plays, 69 yards, 4:10							
THIRD QUARTER							
GT TD 11:24							
Tobias Oliver 5 Yd Run (Brenton King Kick)				24	21		
7 plays, 69 yards, 3:36							
FOURTH QUARTER							
GT TD 14:15							
Tobias Oliver 1 Yd Run (Brenton King Kick)				38	28		
7 plays, 74 yards, 3:12							
Team Stats							
First Downs		GT		USF			
Total Yards		30		28			
Total Plays		599		426			
Avg Gain Per Play		75		75			
Net Yards Rushing		8.0		5.7			
Rushes		416		224			
Yards Per Rush		57		44			
Net Yards Passing		7.3		5.1			
Comp-Att		183		202			
Yards Per Pass		9-18		21-31			
Times Sacked		10.2		6.5			
Yds Lost To Sacks		2		2			
Interceptions		-10		-10			
Punts		2		1			
Punt Average		2		3			
Penalties		0.0		0.0			
Penalty Yards		8		5			
Fumbles		80		45			
Fumbles Lost		1		0			
Possession		1		0			
		35:32		24:28			
Individual Stats							
RUSHING							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
TaQuon Marshall	13	113	8.7	1	45		
Tobias Oliver	18	97	5.4	3	15		
Jordan Mason	13	95	7.3	0	46		
Qua Searcy	3	52	17.3	0	28		
KirVonte Benson	5	41	8.2	0	16		
Nathan Cottrell	4	20	5.0	0	8		
Jerry Howard	1	1	1.0	0	1		
USF							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Blake Barnett	16	91	5.7	2	22		
Duran Bell Jr.	12	69	5.8	1	16		
Jordan Cronkrite	9	39	4.3	0	14		
Trevon Sands	4	11	2.8	0	4		
Terrence Horne	2	8	4.0	0	7		
Tyre McCants	1	6	6.0	0	6		
PASSING							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
TaQuon Marshall	9	18	183	10.2	1	2	80.7
USF							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Blake Barnett	21	31	202	6.5	2	1	85.8
RECEIVING							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Clinton Lynch	3	111	37.0	1	81		
Qua Searcy	2	39	19.5	0	21		
Malachi Carter	1	13	13.0	0	13		
Jalen Camp	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Nathan Cottrell	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Brad Stewart	1	6	6.0	0	6		
USF							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Tyre McCants	10	99	9.9	0	24		
Darnell Salomon	3	37	12.3	1	18		
Mitchell Wilcox	2	28	14.0	0	15		
Randall St. Felix	3	23	7.7	0	13		
Terrence Horne	2	11	5.5	1	8		
Jordan Cronkrite	1	4	4.0	0	4		