

WEEK TWO

UTAH AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS

DEKALB, Ill. -- Zack Moss ran for a touchdown while Chase Hanson added another score on a late interception return as unranked Utah extended its nonconference winning streak to 21 with a 17-6 come-from-behind victory over Northern Illinois on Saturday night.

Tyler Huntley was 20-of-31 passing for 286 yards as the Utes (2-0) remained unbeaten in nonconference games since 2012 and improved to 28-1 since joining the Pac-12 Conference in 2011.

Marcus Childers passed for 111 yards and rushed for 12 more while kicker Andrew Gantz had a pair of field goals for the Huskies (0-2).

Gantz' 49-yard field goal with 1:23 left in the first quarter gave Northern Illinois a 3-0 lead it maintained through halftime. Utah's Matt Gay -- an AP preseason All-American -- had a first-quarter field goal blocked and a 43-yard second-quarter attempt go wide right.

Huskie defensive end Sutton Smith, who topped the nation with 14 sacks in 2017, hit Huntley for a four-yard loss with seconds left in the first half to help stop a late Utes drive.

But Huntley set up Utah's go-ahead touchdown with a 41-yard third-quarter strike to Jaylen Dixon to the Northern Illinois 35. Seven plays later, Moss, a junior running back, scored from the 1 for his second touchdown of the season as the Utes claimed their first lead at 7-3.

The Huskies narrowed the margin to 7-6 on a 27-yard Gantz field goal with 6:51 left after a promising drive stalled at the Utes 9.

Gay's 40-yard field goal opened a 10-6 lead with 4:38 showing. Hanson's 22-yard interception return two minutes later capped the scoring.

Saturday's game was the first between the teams. They'll play again in 2019 at Utah.

THE TAKEAWAY

Utah, which led the nation in fewest yards allowed (59) entering Saturday, gave up 74 by late in the first quarter, 128 by halftime. Northern Illinois collected 228 yards for the game. On defense, the Huskies recorded 14 tackles for a loss and had six sacks, including two by defending national sack leader Sutton Smith, who had 14 in 2017.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Unranked Utah, which received 71 votes in this week's Associated Press poll, hope to crack the Top 25 with a win heading into next Saturday's Pac-12 season opener against No. 9 Washington.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UTAH	0	0	7	10	17
NIU	3	0	0	3	6

Scoring Summary -----

	UTAH	NIU
FIRST QUARTER		
NIU FG 1:23		
Andrew Gantz 49 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 44 yards, 4:00	0	3
THIRD QUARTER		
UTAH TD 8:31		
Zack Moss 1 Yd Run (Matt Gay Kick)		
9 plays, 76 yards, 4:12	7	3
FOURTH QUARTER		
NIU FG 6:51		
Andrew Gantz 27 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 42 yards, 3:01	7	6
UTAH FG 4:38		
Matt Gay 40 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 54 yards, 2:13	10	6
UTAH TD 2:36		
Chase Hansen 40 Yd Interception Return (Matt Gay Kick)		
1 play, 0 yards, 0:09	17	6

Team Stats	UTAH	NIU
First Downs	20	13
Total Yards	355	230
Total Plays	69	72
Avg Gain Per Play	5.1	3.2
Net Yards Rushing	69	141
Rushes	38	43
Yards Per Rush	1.8	3.3
Net Yards Passing	286	89
Comp-Att	20-31	15-29
Yards Per Pass	9.2	3.1
Times Sacked	3	5
Yds Lost To Sacks	-37	-37
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	5	8
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	6	4
Penalty Yards	59	43
Fumbles	3	3
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Possession	28:28	31:32

Individual Stats

RUSHING

UTAH	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Zack Moss	16	66	4.1	1	12
Armand Shyne	1	6	6.0	0	6
Britain Covey	1	3	3.0	0	3
TJ Green	1	3	3.0	0	3
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Tyler Huntley	19	-9	-0.5	0	20

NIU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Tre Harbison	13	63	4.8	0	16
Marcus Jones	7	36	5.1	0	11
Jordan Nettles	9	29	3.2	0	11
Marcus Childers	12	12	1.0	0	19
D.J. Brown	1	0	0.0	0	0
Team	1	-23	-23.0	0	0

PASSING

UTAH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Tyler Huntley	20	31	286	9.2	0	0	142.0
NIU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Marcus Childers	18	33	111	3.4	0	1	76.7

RECEIVING

UTAH	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Britain Covey	8	129	16.1	0	48
Jaylen Dixon	2	50	25.0	0	41
Bronson Boyd	1	25	25.0	0	25
Samson Nacua	2	23	11.5	0	15
Demari Simpkins	1	20	20.0	0	20
Siaosi Mariner	1	9	9.0	0	9
Connor Haller	1	8	8.0	0	8
Solomon Enis	1	8	8.0	0	8
Cole Fotheringham	1	8	8.0	0	8
Zack Moss	1	6	6.0	0	6
Brant Kuithe	1	0	0.0	0	0
NIU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Jauan Wesley	8	73	9.1	0	16
D.J. Brown	4	23	5.8	0	11
Ty Harmston	3	21	7.0	0	11
Leon Payne	1	2	2.0	0	2
Marcus Jones	2	-3	-1.5	0	4
Cole Tucker	0	-5	0.0	0	0