

WEEK Three
GEORGIA TECH AT PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH -- Qadree Ollison and the rest of his Pittsburgh teammates found a unique way to combat the lingering effects of a loss to Penn State that could have defined their season: willful amnesia.

"Forgot about it. Forgot about last week," Ollison said after rushing for 91 yards and two touchdowns in a 24-19 victory over Georgia Tech on Saturday. "It wasn't hard. Don't remember none of it. Don't remember who we played."

And then the senior running back laughed. Just a little. There's nothing the Panthers can do about their nationally televised second-half meltdown against the Nittany Lions. Best to just move on.

"You've got to flush it out," Ollison said. "You've got to forget about it and realize that all our goals are still intact. Nobody said you had to be undefeated to go to the ACC championship or national championship. If we win the rest of our games, nobody will remember what happened last week."

Not exactly, but Pitt (2-1, 1-0 ACC) took a significant step forward by racing to a three-touchdown lead and holding off the Yellow Jackets late.

Ollison scored on runs of 31 and 8 yards, backfield mate Darrin Hall added a 5-yard scoring burst of his own and the Panthers opened conference play by playing the kind of game they'll need to repeat many times over the next two-plus months if they want to be a factor in the wide-open Coastal Division.

"We know last week, that really wasn't us," safety Damar Hamlin said. "We didn't get to show who we are as a team. So we just tried to get to this game as quick as we can to get off that bad page."

Quarterback Kenny Pickett left briefly due with a left leg injury at the end of the first half but played the entire second half, completing 16 of 23 passes for a season-high 191 yards and an interception. Pickett wore a brace on the leg over the final two quarters, something he does regularly in practice but never in games. That will change going forward.

"We dodged a bullet really," Pitt head coach Pat Narduzzi said. "He's healthy, but he likes to go run, and he wants to feel clean, but that ain't going to happen. I'll tape that thing to his leg."

JACKETS STUMBLE

A week after rolling up 602 yards in a loss to South Florida, the Yellow Jackets managed just 386 against the Panthers, 99 of it coming on a last-gasp drive in the final minutes. The Yellow Jackets (1-2, 0-1) did little in the first half when six of their seven drives lasted five plays or less.

"We came out to start the game offensively and it looked like we had never played the game before," Georgia Tech head coach Paul Johnson said. "We had a chance to get back in the game. But we never had a chance to get the lead."

TaQuon Marshall scored on a pair of short touchdown runs in the second half and finished with a team-high 103 yards rushing. He struggled through the air, completing just one pass until Georgia Tech's final drive. Marshall ended up 6 of 15 for 66 yards and an interception on a heave to the end zone with just under 10 minutes remaining that was easily picked off by Pitt's Phillipie Motley to end any real threat the Yellow Jackets had of mounting a comeback.

WHAT WAS THAT?

Some unorthodox decision making by Johnson didn't exactly help things. He called for a fake punt from the Georgia Tech 28 in the first quarter, and Antwan Owens was stuffed for a two-yard loss. Three plays later Hall scored to Pitt up two touchdowns before the game was 10 minutes old.

Georgia Tech faced another fourth down at the Pitt 23 in the second quarter. Rather than attempt a makeable field goal to get on the board, the Yellow Jackets went for it. Needing five yards, Marshall dropped back to pass, which sailed high and out of the reach of Jalen Camp.

"If we can't throw a pass that is eight yards and catch it, then that's a bad call," Johnson said. "That was a bad call. It was on me."

Pitt responded with a 60-yard completion from Pickett to Taysir Mack off a flea-flicker to set up Ollison's second score and take firm control.

BIG PICTURE

Georgia Tech: The Yellow Jackets have to stop beating themselves. The playcalling was odd at times. So were a couple of personal foul penalties on late hits that handed Pitt yardage on drives that turned into touchdowns.

Pitt: Considering the daunting stretch ahead -- three of Pitt's next four are on the road, two against ranked opponents -- the Panthers needed a bounce-back performance and they got one.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
GT	0	0	6	13	19
PITT	14	7	3	0	24

Scoring Summary -----

	GT	PITT
FIRST QUARTER		
PITT TD 8:38		
Qadree Ollison 31 Yd Run (Alex Kessman Kick)	0	7
5 plays, 63 yards, 1:41		
PITT TD 5:20		
Darrin Hall 5 Yd Run (Alex Kessman Kick)	0	14
3 plays, 26 yards, 1:04		
SECOND QUARTER		
PITT TD 2:59		
Qadree Ollison 8 Yd Run (Alex Kessman Kick)	0	21
4 plays, 77 yards, 2:08		
THIRD QUARTER		
GT TD 8:43		
TaQuon Marshall 1 Yd Run (Brenton King PAT failed)	6	21
10 plays, 75 yards, 6:17		
PITT FG 2:36		
Alex Kessman 33 Yd Field Goal	6	24
12 plays, 60 yards, 6:07		
FOURTH QUARTER		
GT TD 13:09		
TaQuon Marshall 7 Yd Run (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)	12	24
8 plays, 56 yards, 3:43		
GT TD 0:37		
Clinton Lynch 3 Yd Run (Brenton King Kick)	19	24
14 plays, 99 yards, 3:31		

	GT	PITT
Team Stats		
First Downs	22	14
Total Yards	386	335
Total Plays	71	54
Avg Gain Per Play	5.4	6.2
Net Yards Rushing	320	138
Rushes	56	31
Yards Per Rush	5.7	4.5
Net Yards Passing	66	197
Comp-Att	6-15	16-23
Yards Per Pass	4.4	8.6
Times Sacked	0	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-8
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	4	6
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	4
Penalty Yards	35	38
Fumbles	3	1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	31:49	28:11

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
GT					
TaQuon Marshall	28	103	3.7	2	15
Jordan Mason	10	94	9.4	0	33
Jerry Howard	8	82	10.3	0	42
Qua Searcy	5	38	7.6	0	17
Omahri Jarrett	1	3	3.0	0	3
Clinton Lynch	3	2	0.7	1	4
Antwan Owens	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
PITT					
Qadree Ollison	17	91	5.4	2	31
Darrin Hall	7	29	4.1	1	7
Shocky Jacques-Louis	1	9	9.0	0	9
Kenny Pickett	2	8	4.0	0	5
Maurice Ffrench	2	1	0.5	0	2
Rafael Araujo-Lopes	2	0	0.0	0	1

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
GT							
TaQuon Marshall	6	15	66	4.4	0	1	5.9
PITT							
Kenny Pickett	16	23	197	8.6	0	1	80.0

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
GT					
Brad Stewart	3	33	11.0	0	13
Jalen Camp	1	20	20.0	0	20
Malachi Carter	1	11	11.0	0	11
Jordan Mason	1	2	2.0	0	2
PITT					
Taysir Mack	4	95	23.8	0	60
Rafael Araujo-Lopes	6	45	7.5	0	12
Maurice Ffrench	3	25	8.3	0	17
George Aston	1	14	14.0	0	14
Aaron Mathews	1	12	12.0	0	12
Darrin Hall	1	6	6.0	0	6