

WEEK FOUR
SOUTH CAROLINE AT KENTUCKY

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- Benny Snell Jr. ran for 99 yards and one of Kentucky's three consecutive first-half touchdowns before the No. 17 Wildcats held on for a 24-10 victory over South Carolina on Saturday night.

Kentucky (5-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) quashed initial concerns about a letdown following their first Top 25 ranking since November 2007 by scoring on four straight drives to lead 24-3 at halftime. The Wildcats ended up needing that cushion to offset a scoreless second half and Jake Bentley's 58-yard, third quarter TD pass to Deebo Samuel that kept the Gamecocks (2-2, 1-2) within striking distance.

Mike Edwards' interception with 3:47 remaining snuffed one chance by the Gamecocks before they turned the ball over on downs in the final minute. That sealed Kentucky's fifth consecutive series win and continued its best SEC start since 1977.

"I would've liked to finish better," Kentucky coach Mark Stoops said. "We shot ourselves in the foot and got a little reckless with some penalties and just a little bit of sloppy play, or we'd really have a chance to put that away much earlier than we did.

"I loved the way our team started, we knew we had to start fast. ... I thought our defense did an exceptional job limiting big plays."

Snell's rushing yardage on 28 carries also made him the third Wildcat to break 3,000 career. His 4-yard score with 4:53 remaining in the second quarter extended his TD record to 40. Quarterback Terry Wilson and A.J. Rose ran for TDs from 1 and 24 yards as Kentucky edged South Carolina 327-321 in yardage. The Wildcats also registered four takeaways, scoring 10 points off a fumble and interception.

"We're going to watch the film and be extremely disappointed with a lot of self-inflicted issues," South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said. "Give Kentucky credit, they're a good football team. But we hurt ourselves."

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Kentucky's first Top 25 presence in 11 years will last another week.

FLAG DAY

Both teams were penalized 11 times. Kentucky was hit for 115 yards, South Carolina 94. Wildcats linebacker Kash Daniel was ejected in the third quarter for targeting while trying to block on Darius West's interception.

THE TAKEAWAY

South Carolina: The Gamecocks' passing game cranked up after half-time and they were within two possessions midway in the fourth quarter. But catch-up through the air also resulted in costly interceptions by Bentley (13 of 28 passing, 148 yards), including one in the end zone.

Kentucky: The Wildcats seemed headed toward a second consecutive SEC rout at the break by dominating the Gamecocks on both sides of the ball. A scoreless second half opened the door for South Carolina, but the defense came up with two timely turnovers to preserve the lead. That was enough to offset the TD that marked the first points they've allowed in the third quarter this season.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
SC	3	0	7	0	10
UK	3	21	0	0	24

Scoring Summary -----

	SC	UK
FIRST QUARTER		
UK FG 10:06		
Miles Butler 29 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, -4 yards, 2:00	0	3
SC FG 5:07		
Parker White 29 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 72 yards, 4:59	3	3
SECOND QUARTER	SC	UK
UK TD 14:21		
Terry Wilson 1 Yd Run (Miles Butler Kick)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 5:46	3	10
UK TD 9:15		
Asim Rose 24 Yd Run (Miles Butler Kick)		
7 plays, 80 yards, 3:16	3	17
UK TD 4:53		
Benny Snell Jr. 4 Yd Run (Miles Butler Kick)		
6 plays, 61 yards, 3:23	3	24
THIRD QUARTER	SC	UK
SC TD 7:37		
Deebo Samuel 58 Yd pass from Jake Bentley (Parker White Kick)		
4 plays, 75 yards, 1:44	10	24

Team Stats	SC	UK
First Downs	18	24
Total Yards	317	328
Total Plays	64	64
Avg Gain Per Play	5.0	5.1
Net Yards Rushing	146	196
Rushes	33	44
Yards Per Rush	4.4	4.5
Net Yards Passing	171	132
Comp-Att	15-31	13-20
Yards Per Pass	5.5	6.6
Times Sacked	2	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-9	0
Interceptions	3	1
Punts	3	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	11	11
Penalty Yards	94	115
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	25:16	34:44

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
SC					
Rico Dowdle	13	44	3.4	0	17
Jake Bentley	8	37	4.6	0	20
A.J. Turner	5	33	6.6	0	19
Mon Denson	7	32	4.6	0	8
Michael Scarnecchia	2	-18	-9.0	0	0
UK					
Benny Snell Jr.	28	99	3.5	1	16
Terry Wilson	9	59	6.6	1	16
Asim Rose	7	38	5.4	1	24
Team	2	-1	-0.5	0	0

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
SC							
Jake Bentley	13	28	148	5.3	1	3	81.2
Michael Scarnecchia	4	6	45	7.5	0	0	131.1
UK							
Terry Wilson	13	20	132	6.6	0	1	110.4

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
SC					
Deebo Samuel	2	61	30.5	1	58
Shi Smith	4	40	10.0	0	13
Rico Dowdle	2	29	14.5	0	20
Bryan Edwards	3	25	8.3	0	11
Josh Vann	2	20	10.0	0	13
A.J. Turner	2	12	6.0	0	9
Kiel Pollard	2	6	3.0	0	4
UK					
C.J. Conrad	3	31	10.3	0	17
Dorian Baker	2	29	14.5	0	20
David Bouvier	1	21	21.0	0	21
Lynn Bowden Jr.	4	18	4.5	0	11
Benny Snell Jr.	1	14	14.0	0	14
Isaiah Epps	1	11	11.0	0	11
Josh Ali	1	8	8.0	0	8