

WEEK EIGHT
UCONN AT SOUTH FOLRIDA

TAMPA, Fla. -- Johnny Ford rushed for 164 yards and three touchdowns to help No. 21 South Florida shrug off a slow start to remain unbeaten with a 38-30 victory over Connecticut on Saturday night.

Ford scored on runs of 15, 15 and 43 yards. He also set up a second-half field goal with a 78-yard burst, helping the Bulls (7-0, 3-0 American Athletic) pull away from a 7-7 halftime tie and match the best start in school history.

Blake Barnett threw for one TD and ran for another for USF. Jordan Cronkite, the nation's third-leading rusher at 151.4 yards per game, finished with 103 yards on 16 attempts for his school record-tying fifth consecutive 100-yard game.

Kevin Mensah rushed for 120 yards and two TDs for UConn (1-6, 0-4), which also got 197 yards and two touchdowns on the ground from quarterback David Pindell.

USF, one of two remaining unbeaten teams in the AAC, has rallied from double-digit, fourth-quarter deficits to win three times this season.

With UConn entering the game yielding nearly 54 points per game, the heavily favored Bulls didn't seem to be candidates to trail 7-0 late in the second quarter.

But Barnett threw interceptions on USF's first two possessions, UConn turned the first one into a touchdown, and the Bulls offense was unable to get on track until Ford finished a seven-play, 80-yard drive with a 15-yard run that evened the score less than a minute before halftime.

It was only the second time UConn hasn't trailed at the half all season. But the prospect for an upset faded quickly.

Randall St. Felix, who had two receptions for 123 yards, turned a quick sideline throw in front of the USF bench into a 75-yard on the first play from scrimmage of the second half. Two defenders whiffed trying to make the tackle, giving the speedy receiver a clear path to the end zone.

THE TAKEAWAY

UConn: Until Saturday night, the Huskies hadn't held an opponent to fewer than 49 points. Despite yielding 346 yards rushing, they were able to stay within striking distance much of the night with a productive running attack (322 yards) of their own.

USF: The Bulls did what they've done all season -- win while looking vulnerable against almost everyone they play. The offense gained 611 yards, but was forced to settle for field goals attempts on two long drives. Defensively, they're bound to not be happy after allowing both Pindell and Mensah to rush for more than 100 yards.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

With No. 16 North Carolina State and No. 20 Cincinnati losing for the first time, USF is one of six unbeaten teams remaining in the Football Bowl Subdivision. The Bulls didn't earn any style points against UConn, though, so it won't be surprising if their climb is minimal in the next AP poll.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UCONN	7	0	7	16	30
USF	0	7	17	14	38

Scoring Summary -----

	UCONN	USF
FIRST QUARTER		
UCONN TD 8:33		
K. Mensah run for 10 yds for a TD, (C. Harris Kick)		
5 plays, 58 yards, 2:28	7	0
SECOND QUARTER		
USF TD 0:43		
Johnny Ford 15 Yd Run (Coby Weiss Kick)		
7 plays, 80 yards, 2:17	7	7
THIRD QUARTER		
USF TD 14:49		
Randall St. Felix 75 Yd pass from Blake Barnett (Coby Weiss Kick)		
1 play, 75 yards, 0:11	7	14
USF FG 6:07		
Coby Weiss 30 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 77 yards, 1:42	7	17
UCONN TD 3:14		
David Pindell 10 Yd Run (Clayton Harris Kick)		
7 plays, 80 yards, 2:53	14	17
USF TD 2:34		
Blake Barnett 20 Yd Run (Coby Weiss Kick)		
2 plays, 25 yards, 0:40	14	24
FOURTH QUARTER		
USF TD 14:36		
Johnny Ford 15 Yd Run (Coby Weiss Kick)		
1 play, 15 yards, 0:07	14	31
UCONN TD 8:56		
Kevin Mensah 4 Yd Run (Clayton Harris PAT blocked)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 5:40	20	31
UCONN TD 8:33		
D. Pindell run for 12 yds for a TD, (C. Harris Kick)		
8 plays, 75 yards, 0:00	30	38
UCONN FG 7:20		
Clayton Harris 38 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, 6 yards, 1:20	23	31
USF TD 4:46		
Johnny Ford 43 Yd Run (Coby Weiss Kick)		
6 plays, 77 yards, 2:34	23	38

Team Stats	UCONN	USF
First Downs	24	24
Total Yards	455	611
Total Plays	72	65
Avg Gain Per Play	6.3	9.4
Net Yards Rushing	322	346
Rushes	51	37
Yards Per Rush	6.3	9.4
Net Yards Passing	133	265
Comp-Att	10-21	20-28
Yards Per Pass	6.3	9.5
Times Sacked	2	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-15	-3
Interceptions	1	2
Punts	6	3
Punt Average	46.8	43.7
Penalties	4	9
Penalty Yards	25	90
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	34:19	25:41

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
UCONN	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
David Pindell	28	197	7.0	2	28		
Kevin Mensah	19	120	6.3	2	34		
Zavier Scott	4	5	1.3	0	2		
USF	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Johnny Ford	7	164	23.4	3	78		
Jordan Cronkrite	16	103	6.4	0	36		
Blake Barnett	10	78	7.8	1	20		
DeAngelo Antoine	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Team	3	-5	-1.7	0	0		
PASSING							
UCONN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
David Pindell	10	21	133	6.3	0	1	91.3
USF	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Blake Barnett	20	28	265	9.5	1	2	148.4
RECEIVING							
UCONN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Hergy Mayala	5	61	12.2	0	22		
Kyle Buss	1	36	36.0	0	36		
Aaron McLean	2	28	14.0	0	24		
Keyion Dixon	1	5	5.0	0	5		
Kevin Mensah	1	3	3.0	0	3		
USF	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Randall St. Felix	2	123	61.5	1	75		
Tyre McCants	6	49	8.2	0	20		
Mitchell Wilcox	4	43	10.8	0	15		
Ryeshene Bronson	2	15	7.5	0	11		
Stanley Clerveaux	2	14	7.0	0	10		
Darnell Salomon	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Jernard Phillips	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Jordan Cronkrite	1	5	5.0	0	5		
Blake Barnett	1	1	1.0	0	1		