

WEEK TEN
HOUSTON AT SMU

DALLAS -- Ben Hicks threw for 318 yards and four touchdowns and SMU beat No. 17 Houston 45-31 on Saturday night, the second time in three years the Mustangs upset a ranked Cougars team.

The Mustangs (4-5, 3-2 American) never trailed, jumping out to a 17-0 lead after Hicks threw his second TD, a 17-yarder to Tyler Page less than a minute into the second quarter. Houston played its first game as a ranked team under second-year coach Major Applewhite.

Hicks threw three touchdowns as a redshirt freshman in the shocker two years ago, when SMU beat the then-No. 11 Cougars 38-16 and knocked them all of the way out of the poll.

After Houston (7-2, 4-1, No. 17 CFP) got to 38-31 on quarterback D'Eriq King's 3-yard touchdown run with 9:34 left, the Mustangs went on a time-consuming 13-play drive that ended with Ke'Mon Freeman's second touchdown run, an 8-yarder with 2:43 left. That drive was interrupted for about 90 minutes because of lightning and heavy rain.

Freeman ran 20 times for 107 yards.

The Cougars were held to 365 total yards, 205 below their national-leading 571 average coming into the game. They failed to reach 40 points for the first time this season, ending their nation's longest active streak at eight games.

King did have at least two passing TDs and a rushing score for the ninth straight game, the longest such streak for an FBS player in the last 20 years. But he ran 12 times for only 31 yards and was 11 of 22 passing for 175 yards.

Hicks completed 28 of 43 passes. Reggie Roberson Jr. (134 yards) and James Proche (90 yards) both had nine catches.

Houston played its second consecutive game without stand-out defensive tackle Ed Oliver because of a bruised right knee. The 6-foot-3, 292-pounder, who is expected to be a high NFL draft pick, went through pregame warmups but didn't play.

THE TAKEAWAY

Houston: While their five-game winning streak was snapped, the Cougars still control their own destiny for winning the West Division and getting to the American Athletic Conference championship game. After allowing only five sacks in the first eight games, King was sacked four times by the Mustangs.

SMU: Since starting 0-3 in coach Sonny Dykes' first season, the Mustangs have won four of six. The losses in that span are to still-undefeated UCF and in overtime to one-loss Cincinnati. Hicks has thrown for at least 291 yards in the past three games, since returning to the starting role after true freshman William Brown started three games in a row.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

A week after the Cougars went from unranked to 17th, they could conceivably be unranked again. If they stay in the new Top 25 on Sunday, it will in the bottom couple of spots.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
HOU	0	14	3	14	31
SMU	10	21	7	7	45

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER	HOU	SMU
SMU FG 10:45		
Kevin Robledo 45 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 43 yards, 2:35	0	3
SMU TD 4:03		
Ryan Becker 7 Yd pass from Ben Hicks (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
5 plays, 55 yards, 1:30	0	10
SECOND QUARTER	HOU	SMU
SMU TD 14:35		
Tyler Page 17 Yd pass from Ben Hicks (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
6 plays, 89 yards, 1:35	0	17
HOU TD 12:54		
Marquez Stevenson 50 Yd pass from D'Eriq King (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)		
5 plays, 80 yards, 1:41	7	17
HOU TD 12:00		
Gleson Sprewell 24 Yd Fumble Return (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)		
3 plays, -1 yard, 0:54	14	17
SMU TD 4:08		
Ke'Mon Freeman 6 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
13 plays, 91 yards, 4:51	14	24
SMU TD 0:06		
James Proche 1 Yd pass from Ben Hicks (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
8 plays, 75 yards, 2:34	14	31
THIRD QUARTER	HOU	SMU
HOU FG 2:48		
Dalton Witherspoon 27 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 31 yards, 3:55	17	31
SMU TD 1:39		
Reggie Roberson Jr. 59 Yd pass from Ben Hicks (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
3 plays, 75 yards, 1:09	17	38
FOURTH QUARTER	HOU	SMU
HOU TD 12:50		
Keith Corbin 1 Yd pass from D'Eriq King (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)		
11 plays, 76 yards, 3:43	24	38
HOU TD 9:34		
D'Eriq King 3 Yd Run (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)		
7 plays, 60 yards, 1:41	31	38
SMU TD 2:43		
Ke'Mon Freeman 8 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
13 plays, 60 yards, 6:41	31	45

Team Stats

	HOU	SMU
First Downs	15	25
Total Yards	365	514
Total Plays	69	84
Avg Gain Per Play	5.3	6.1
Net Yards Rushing	190	196
Rushes	47	40
Yards Per Rush	4.0	4.9
Net Yards Passing	175	318
Comp-Att	11-22	28-44
Yards Per Pass	8.0	7.2
Times Sacked	4	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-20	-6
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	7	6
Punt Average	43.4	32.7
Penalties	6	2
Penalty Yards	50	19
Fumbles	2	3
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Possession	25:47	34:13

Individual Stats

RUSHING

HOU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Patrick Carr	17	75	4.4	0	28
D'Eriq King	13	54	4.2	1	24
Chandler Smith	8	31	3.9	0	12
Mulbah Car	5	20	4.0	0	7
Terence Williams	4	10	2.5	0	4
SMU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Ke'Mon Freeman	20	107	5.3	2	44
Braeden West	9	53	5.9	0	16
Xavier Jones	6	44	7.3	0	34
Ben Hicks	2	-2	-1.0	0	4
Team	3	-6	-2.0	0	0

PASSING

HOU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
D'Eriq King	11	22	175	8.0	2	0	146.8
SMU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Ben Hicks	28	43	318	7.4	4	0	157.9
Tyler Page	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

RECEIVING

HOU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Marquez Stevenson	3	104	34.7	1	50
Bryson Smith	4	30	7.5	0	13
Keith Corbin	2	27	13.5	1	26
Romello Brooker	2	14	7.0	0	8
SMU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Reggie Roberson Jr.	9	134	14.9	1	59
James Proche	9	90	10.0	1	35
Myron Gailliard	3	30	10.0	0	12
Ryan Becker	2	26	13.0	1	19
Tyler Page	2	22	11.0	1	17
Braeden West	2	16	8.0	0	12
Xavier Jones	1	0	0.0	0	1