

WEEK ELEVEN
SMU AT UCONN

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. -- SMU has all its running backs healthy and the Mustangs may just rush their way into a bowl game.

Ke'Mon Freeman and Xavier Jones each ran for more than 100 yards and combined for five touchdowns as SMU outscored UConn 62-50 on Saturday.

Ben Hicks threw for 276 yards and a score for the Mustangs (5-5, 4-2 American), who are at .500 for the first time this season.

"We told (the defense), 'We got you all's back,'" Jones said. "We told them, 'They can't stop us. If you can't get them off the field, we're going to keep scoring, so we'll just outscore them.' That's what we did."

After an 0-3 start, SMU is now one game away from being bowl eligible.

"We got hungry," Jones said. "Every week we got better. We're one win away from being bowl eligible, but shoot, we're still planning on playing for the conference championship."

UConn stayed in the game thanks to quarterback David Pindell. He threw for 215 yards and four touchdowns ran for 181 yards and two others. He becomes first Husky quarterback to ever to rush for 1,000 yards in a season and the first UConn player to do it since tailback Lyle McCombs in 2011.

Kevin Mensah ran the ball 28 times for 184 yards and a score for UConn (1-9, 0-6).

The teams combined for 1,174 yards of offense, 680 on the ground.

SMU's first five drives ended in scores and the Mustangs led 31-10 at the half. UConn scored 40 points after intermission, but could not stop the Mustangs from answering.

"I'm proud of the team because they didn't give up," Pindell said. "They kept fighting and they gave us a chance to win."

Freeman (116 yards) had first-quarter touchdown runs of 39 and 5 yards and added a 3-yard score in the fourth quarter. Jones (133 yards) had second-half touchdown runs of 52 and 43 yards.

The Mustangs also broke out a few trick plays. Receiver Tyler Page took a pitch then threw a 3-yard TD to tight end Ryan Becker to make it 24-7. A 46-yard flea-flicker and a one-handed catch from James Proche, set up a Braeden West rushing touchdown.

Freeman has battled a shoulder injury this season and Jones has struggled with leg issues.

"That was a big deal, having them back healthy," said coach Sonny Dykes.

UConn, which has given up more than 50 points six times this season and 49 points in two other games, hasn't beaten an FBS team since October of last year.

THE TAKEAWAY

SMU: SMU put up 594 yards of total offense and 315 yards rushing under coordinator Rhett Lashlee, who coached the UConn offense last season

"When you go and play on the road, your run game usually determines if you're going to win," said coach Sonny Dykes.

UConn: The Huskies had 580 yards of offense, including 365 on the ground. Pindell has eclipsed 100 yards on the ground six times this season, including the Huskies last four.

EMOTIONAL LIFT

UConn linebacker Eli Thomas, who suffered a stroke a month ago, walked onto the field before the game to participate in the coin toss.

"He surprised us last night at the team dinner," Pindell said. "Nobody knew he was going to be there and everybody was all surprised and happy for him."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
SMU	17	14	14	17	62
UConn	7	3	14	26	50

Scoring Summary -----

	SMU	UConn
FIRST QUARTER		
SMU FG 11:31		
Kevin Robledo 39 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 53 yards, 3:29	3	0
SMU TD 7:24		
Ke'Mon Freeman 39 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
6 plays, 82 yards, 2:11	10	0
UConn TD 4:38		
David Pindell 30 Yd Run (Michael Tarbutt Kick)		
7 plays, 75 yards, 2:46	10	7
SMU TD 3:10		
Ke'Mon Freeman 5 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
5 plays, 76 yards, 1:28	17	7
SECOND QUARTER		
SMU TD 11:15		
Ryan Becker 3 Yd pass from Tyler Page (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
11 plays, 72 yards, 3:49	24	7
UConn FG 8:33		
Michael Tarbutt 45 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 47 yards, 2:42	24	10
SMU TD 7:36		
Braeden West 6 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
3 plays, 55 yards, 0:57	31	10
THIRD QUARTER		
UConn TD 11:10		
Hergy Mayala 22 Yd pass from David Pindell (Michael Tarbutt Kick)		
9 plays, 81 yards, 3:50	31	17
SMU TD 10:40		
Xavier Jones 52 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
2 plays, 70 yards, 0:30	38	17
UConn TD 6:50		
Kyle Buss 15 Yd pass from David Pindell (Michael Tarbutt Kick)		
8 plays, 73 yards, 3:50	38	24
SMU TD 3:54		
Reggie Roberson Jr. 6 Yd pass from Ben Hicks (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 2:56	45	24
FOURTH QUARTER		
UConn TD 14:57		
Tyler Davis 5 Yd pass from David Pindell (Michael Tarbutt Kick)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 3:57	45	31
SMU TD 14:48		
Xavier Jones 43 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
1 play, 43 yards, 0:09	52	31
UConn TD 13:41		
David Pindell 48 Yd Run (Michael Tarbutt PAT blocked)		
3 plays, 65 yards, 1:07	52	37
UConn TD 10:18		
Kevin Mensah 19 Yd Run (Michael Tarbutt Kick)		
5 plays, 59 yards, 1:58	52	44
SMU TD 8:55		
Ke'Mon Freeman 3 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)		
4 plays, 62 yards, 1:23	59	44
SMU FG 3:35		
Kevin Robledo 30 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 36 yards, 3:45	62	44
UConn TD 0:36		
Hergy Mayala 14 Yd pass from David Pindell (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)		
9 plays, 40 yards, 1:20	62	50

Team Stats	SMU	UConn
First Downs	24	34
Total Yards	594	580
Total Plays	69	89
Avg Gain Per Play	8.6	6.5
Net Yards Rushing	315	365
Rushes	39	49
Yards Per Rush	8.1	7.4
Net Yards Passing	279	215
Comp-Att	20-30	25-40
Yards Per Pass	9.3	5.4
Times Sacked	1	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-8	-19
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	3	2
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	6	9
Penalty Yards	83	77
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	24:35	35:25

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
SMU							
Xavier Jones	11	133	12.1	2	52		
Ke'Mon Freeman	17	116	6.8	3	39		
Ben Hicks	4	50	12.5	0	51		
James Proche	1	13	13.0	0	13		
Braeden West	5	4	0.8	1	6		
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
UConn							
Kevin Mensah	28	184	6.6	1	50		
David Pindell	21	181	8.6	2	48		
PASSING							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
SMU							
Ben Hicks	19	29	276	9.5	1	0	156.8
Tyler Page	1	1	3	3.0	1	0	455.2
UConn							
David Pindell	25	38	215	5.7	4	1	142.8
Team	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	--
RECEIVING							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
SMU							
James Proche	6	101	16.8	0	46		
Ryan Becker	2	59	29.5	1	56		
Reggie Roberson Jr.	5	51	10.2	1	27		
Myron Gailliard	3	41	13.7	0	18		
Ke'Mon Freeman	2	14	7.0	0	10		
Braeden West	2	13	6.5	0	8		
UConn							
Aaron McLean	7	82	11.7	0	26		
Kyle Buss	4	46	11.5	1	15		
Hergy Mayala	3	39	13.0	2	22		
Zavier Scott	7	32	4.6	0	11		
Tyler Davis	4	16	4.0	1	6		