

WEEK TWELVE

FIU AT CAHRLOTTE

FIU tops Charlotte 42-35, remains in C-USA title hunt

Florida International University’s quarterback James Morgan looks to make a pass against the Charlotte 49ers at the Jerry Richardson Stadium on November 17, 2018 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Joshua Komer The Miami Herald

A college football game with 77 points and more than 1,000 yards’ total offense actually turned on a pair of defensive plays Saturday.

FIU kept its Conference USA East Division title hopes alive by holding off Charlotte 42-35 on a sunny afternoon, and the Panthers had plenty of stellar offensive moments.

But late in the first quarter, with Charlotte winning 7-3 and driving into FIU territory, the Panthers forced a fumble from 49er running back Ishod Finger. Linebacker Sage Lewis scooped up the ball and raced – as quickly as a 240-pounder can race – 61 yards for a touchdown.

On Charlotte’s next series, the 49ers drove to the FIU 17, but the Panthers stopped conference rushing leader Benny Lemay on fourth down. On the next play, FIU quarterback James Morgan connected with Austin Maloney on a 54-yard pass. Premium content for only \$0.99

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The Panthers only got a field goal on the drive for a 13-7 lead. And Charlotte later took a 14-13 lead.

But the two defensive plays kept FIU in the game early, and the Panthers eventually got their offense moving at full speed in the second half.

“I was proud of these guys,” said coach Butch Davis, whose birthday was Saturday. “They really fought hard, although we were a lot more effective in the second half.”

FIU closes the regular season Saturday at home against Marshall, and either a Panther victory or a Middle Tennessee loss against West Division leader UAB will send Davis’ team into the conference championship Dec. 1.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
FIU	10	10	7	15	42
CHAR	7	7	7	14	35

Scoring Summary -----

FIU	CHAR
CHAR TD 12:49 Benny LeMay 9 Yd Run (Jonathan Cruz Kick)	
5 plays, 75 yards, 2:11	0 7
FIU FG 8:49 Jose Borregales 25 Yd Field Goal	
11 plays, 67 yards, 4:00	3 7
FIU TD 5:33 Sage Lewis 61 Yd Fumble Return (Jose Borregales Kick)	
7 plays, 36 yards, 3:16	10 7
second Quarter	FIU CHAR
FIU FG 12:03 Jose Borregales 28 Yd Field Goal	
7 plays, 72 yards, 2:52	13 7
CHAR TD 9:37 Benny LeMay 1 Yd Run (Jonathan Cruz Kick)	
5 plays, 75 yards, 2:26	13 14
FIU TD 3:38 Napoleon Maxwell 39 Yd Run (Jose Borregales Kick)	
4 plays, 55 yards, 1:51	20 14
third Quarter	FIU CHAR
FIU TD 12:54 Anthony Jones 6 Yd pass from James Morgan (Jose Borregales Kick) 4 plays, 79 yards, 1:59	27 14
CHAR TD 4:33 Benny LeMay 1 Yd Run (Jonathan Cruz Kick)	
9 plays, 90 yards, 4:35	27 21
fourth Quarter	FIU CHAR
FIU TD 14:56 Anthony Jones 3 Yd pass from James Morgan (James Morgan Pass to Tony Gaiter IV for Two-Point Conversion)	35 21
10 plays, 75 yards, 4:37	
CHAR TD 9:33 Benny LeMay 6 Yd Run (Jonathan Cruz Kick)	
11 plays, 75 yards, 5:23	35 28
FIU TD 7:04 Napoleon Maxwell 52 Yd Run (Jose Borregales Kick)	
4 plays, 75 yards, 2:29	42 28
TD 1:14 Chris Phillips 12 Yd pass from Hasaan Klugh (Jonathan Cruz Kick)15 plays, 75 yards, 5:50	42 35

Team Stats	FIU	CHAR
First Downs	21	28
Total Yards	490	534
Total Plays	55	79
Avg Gain Per Play	8.9	6.8
Net Yards Rushing	196	281
Rushes	23	57
Yards Per Rush	8.5	4.9
Net Yards Passing	294	253
Comp-Att	25-32	16-22
Yards Per Pass	9.2	11.5
Times Sacked	3	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-16	0
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	4	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	6	7
Penalty Yards	47	65
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	24:05	35:55

Individual Stats  
RUSHING

FIU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
23 Napoleon Maxwell	7	102	14.6	52	2
2 Anthony Jones	11	72	6.5	38	0
24 D’Vonte Price	5	22	4.4	6	0
CHAR	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
32 Benny LeMay	30	159	5.3	31	4
5 Aaron McAllister	12	73	6.1	33	0
7 Hasaan Klugh	13	48	3.7	14	0
30 Ishod Finger	2	1	0.5	0	0

PASSING	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
12 James Morgan	24	31	268	8.6	2	0	171.3
Maurice Alexander	1	1	26	26.0	0	0	318.4
CHAR	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
7 Hasaan Klugh	16	22	253	11.5	1	1	175.2

RECEIVING

FIU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
15 Austin Maloney	3	107	35.7	54	0
19 Shemar Thornton	4	61	15.3	26	0
9 Bryce Singleton	4	38	9.5	17	0
1 Maurice Alexander	5	36	7.2	11	0
88 Sterling Palmer	2	23	11.5	21	0
11 CJ Worton	2	12	6.0	7	0
2 Anthony Jones	2	9	4.5	6	2
43 Christian Irving	1	6	6.0	6	0
23 Napoleon Maxwell	1	1	1.0	1	0
24 D’Vonte Price	1	1	1.0	1	0
CHAR	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
9 Victor Tucker	4	115	28.8	67	0
32 Benny LeMay	3	43	14.3	28	0
6 Workpeh Kofa	4	37	9.3	14	0
87 Chris Phillips	2	29	14.5	17	1
21 Rico Arnold	1	11	11.0	11	0
81 Tyler Ringwood	1	9	9.0	9	0
8 R.J. Tyler	1	9	9.0	9	0