

WEEK TWELVE

MIDD TENN AT KENTUCKY

Defense helps No. 20 Kentucky outlast Middle Tennessee 34-23

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- Mike Edwards had two takeaways leading to Kentucky's first two touchdowns, and the No. 20 Wildcats made several fourth-quarter defensive stops for a 34-23 escape of Middle Tennessee on Saturday.

Kentucky (8-3) ended a two-game slide but had to survive the Blue Raiders' rally within 31-23 early in the fourth. Wildcats senior linebacker Josh Allen sacked Brent Stockstill for a 7-yard loss on fourth down and set up Miles Butler's 32-yard field goal with 4:01 remaining.

A face mask penalty helped the Blue Raiders (7-4) reach the Kentucky 5-yard line in the final minute before consecutive sacks of Stockstill by Allen and Jamar Watson totaling 16 yards ended that final chance. Allen's two sacks made him the Wildcats' single season (13) and career sacks leader (27.5) as he finished with a career-best 15 tackles.

Edwards provided the initial defensive boost by returning an interception 66 yards for a TD 1:27 into the contest before stripping Zack Rush of the ball on the next drive to set up Benny Snell Jr. for the first of his two TDs for the cushion Kentucky eventually needed to earn its eighth win for the first time since 2007.

"I'm pleased to get the eighth victory, but (it was) definitely not easy," Kentucky coach Mark Stoops said. "We knew it was going to be a tough, hard-fought game and they kind of beat us at our game. They kept the ball, possessed the ball the entire game and it kind of got a little aggravating."

Stockstill completed 30 of 33 passes for 293 yards and three touchdowns and Chaton rushed for 98 yards and two scores. But those turnovers forced MTSU to play catch-up as its four-game winning streak ended.

"We didn't flinch," MTSU coach Rick Stockstill said. "With six or seven minutes left in the game we made it a one-score game, and we couldn't finish it off."

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Kentucky needed this win and should stay in the Top 25 despite holding on.

THE TAKEAWAY

Middle Tennessee: The Blue Raiders outgained Kentucky 392-324 and seemed poised to tie the game late, but couldn't break through deep in Wildcats territory. Those turnovers on their first two possessions dug a quick hole they couldn't climb from.

Kentucky: The Wildcats needed a lift, though it was tense. They finally surpassed 20 points for the first time since beating South Carolina 24-10 on Sept. 29. The offense and defense stalled, before the Southeastern Conference's sacks leader came up with stops that sealed the win.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MTSU	0	10	6	7	23
UK	17	7	7	3	34

Scoring Summary -----

	MTSU	UK
FIRST QUARTER		
UK TD 13:33 Mike Edwards 66 Yd Interception Return (Miles Butler Kick) 4 plays, 26 yards, 1:27	0	7
UK TD 8:36 Benny Snell Jr. 7 Yd Run (Miles Butler Kick) 8 plays, 50 yards, 3:33	0	14
UK FG 1:35 Miles Butler 38 Yd Field Goal 10 plays, 34 yards, 5:13	0	17
second Quarter		
MTSU TD 11:20 Chaton Mobley 6 Yd pass from Brent Stockstill (Crews Holt Kick) 11 plays, 75 yards, 5:15	7	17
UK TD 8:40 C.J. Conrad 11 Yd pass from Terry Wilson (Miles Butler Kick) 5 plays, 75 yards, 2:33	7	24
MTSU FG 1:04 Crews Holt 33 Yd Field Goal 5 plays, 19 yards, 1:26	10	24
third Quarter		
UK TD 10:30 Benny Snell Jr. 6 Yd Run (Miles Butler Kick) 9 plays, 83 yards, 4:25	10	31
MTSU TD 4:32 Ty Lee 10 Yd pass from Brent Stockstill (Crews Holt PAT failed) 11 plays, 75 yards, 5:58	16	31
fourth Quarter		
MTSU TD 13:18 Patrick Smith 5 Yd pass from Brent Stockstill (Crews Holt Kick) 11 plays, 65 yards, 5:03	23	31
UK FG 4:01 Miles Butler 32 Yd Field Goal 10 plays, 47 yards, 5:31	23	34

Team Stats	MTSU	UK
First Downs	24	15
Total Yards	392	324
Total Plays	71	54
Avg Gain Per Play	5.5	6.0
Net Yards Rushing	99	203
Rushes	38	40
Yards Per Rush	2.6	5.1
Net Yards Passing	293	121
Comp-Att	30-33	10-14
Yards Per Pass	8.9	8.6
Times Sacked	7	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-52	-10
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	2	2
Punt Average	32.0	33.5
Penalties	6	6
Penalty Yards	57	51
Fumbles	2	2
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	33:22	26:38

Individual Stats

RUSHING

MTSU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
44 Chaton Mobley	19	98	5.2	16	0
1 Terelle West	5	25	5.0	9	0
24 Zack Dobson	1	3	3.0	0	0
21 Tavares Thomas	1	3	3.0	3	0
12 Brent Stockstill	12	-30	-2.5	5	0
UK	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
26 Benny Snell	26	116	4.5	17	2
10 Asim Rose	7	48	6.9	31	0
3 Terry Wilson	5	27	5.4	36	0
1 Lynn Bowden	1	12	12.0	12	0

PASSING

MTSU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Brent Stockstill	30	33	293	8.9	3	1	189.4
UK	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
3 Terry Wilson	10	14	121	8.6	1	0	167.6

RECEIVING

MTSU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
8 Ty Lee	7	85	12.1	26	1
44 Chaton Mobley	5	62	12.4	24	1
24 Zack Dobson	2	46	23.0	34	0
37 Patrick Smith	6	38	6.3	16	1
21 Tavares Thomas	7	31	4.4	9	0
1 Terelle West	1	11	11.0	11	0
87 Gatlin Casey	1	11	11.0	11	0
9 Isiah Upton	1	9	9.0	9	0
UK	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
87 C.J. Conrad	4	51	12.8	17	1
83 Justin Rigg	1	29	29.0	29	0
81 Isaiah Epps	3	24	8.0	14	0
1 Lynn Bowden	1	9	9.0	8	0
11 Tavin Richardson	1	8	8.0	8	0