

WEEK TWELVE

PITTSBURGH AT WAKE FOREST

Pitt clinches first berth in ACC title game by beating Wake Forest play

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. -- Kenny Pickett threw a career-best three touchdown passes, all in the second half, and Pittsburgh beat Wake Forest 34-13 on Saturday to clinch its first berth in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game.

Pickett finished 23 of 30 for a career-high 316 yards with scoring passes of 4 yards to Rafael Araujo-Jones, 63 yards to Taysir Mack and 23 yards to Maurice Ffrench.

Darrin Hall had a 2-yard touchdown run and left tackle Stefano Millin added a late 6-yard scoring run for the Panthers (7-4, 6-1), who won their fourth straight -- their longest winning streak in two years. They will play in their first title game since joining the league in 2013, taking on No. 2 Clemson on Dec. 1 in Charlotte.

Jamie Newman was 15 of 30 for 206 yards with a 28-yard touchdown pass to Alex Bachman for the Demon Deacons (5-6, 2-5), who must beat Duke next week to qualify for their third straight bowl.

Nick Sciba kicked two field goals, including a 20-yarder with 12:30 to play that made it 20-13. Pickett and the Panthers then methodically went 78 yards in 11 plays and chewed up more than 5 minutes before the sophomore quarterback hit Ffrench on a post pattern for the score with 7:27 left that effectively sealed it.

THE TAKEAWAY

Pittsburgh: The Panthers climbed the Coastal Division standings with their running game, which ranks second only to Georgia Tech in the ACC with an average of nearly 257 yards. This was only the fourth time this season they were held to fewer than 200 yards rushing, but Pickett proved Pitt can move it through the air, too.

Wake Forest: One question hanging over the Demon Deacons centers on coach Dave Clawson's decision to kick two short field goals. Sciba's first kick on the first possession came on fourth-and-inches from the 15, and the second came on a fourth-and-goal from the 2 immediately after Pitt went up 20-10. But the real issue is that, of the Demon Deacons' first five possessions of the second half, four of them were three-and-outs that lasted less than 90 seconds.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
PITT	0	6	14	14	34
WAKE	3	7	0	3	13

Scoring Summary -----

	PITT	WAKE
FIRST QUARTER		
WAKE FG 10:50 Nick Sciba 32 Yd Field Goal	0	3
8 plays, 54 yards, 2:33		
second Quarter		
PITT TD 4:03 Darrin Hall 2 Yd Run (Alex Kessman PAT blocked)	6	3
14 plays, 85 yards, 8:49		
WAKE TD 1:32 Alex Bachman 28 Yd pass from Jamie Newman (Nick Sciba Kick)9 plays, 75 yards, 2:31	6	10
third Quarter		
PITT TD 4:03 Rafael Araujo-Lopes 4 Yd pass from Kenny Pickett (Alex Kessman Kick)11 plays, 66 yards, 6:58	13	10
PITT TD 1:14 Taysir Mack 63 Yd pass from Kenny Pickett (Alex Kessman Kick)4 plays, 75 yards, 1:33	20	10
fourth Quarter		
WAKE FG 12:30 Nick Sciba 20 Yd Field Goal	20	13
12 plays, 73 yards, 3:44		
PITT TD 7:27 Maurice Ffrench 23 Yd pass from Kenny Pickett (Alex Kessman Kick)11 plays, 78 yards, 5:03	27	13
PITT TD 3:22 Stefano Millin 6 Yd Run (Alex Kessman Kick)	34	13
8 plays, 42 yards, 3:24		

Team Stats	PITT	WAKE
First Downs	20	16
Total Yards	470	285
Total Plays	77	58
Avg Gain Per Play	6.1	4.9
Net Yards Rushing	154	79
Rushes	47	28
Yards Per Rush	3.3	2.8
Net Yards Passing	316	206
Comp-Att	23-30	15-30
Yards Per Pass	10.5	6.9
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-11	-12
Interceptions	0	2
Punts	5	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	10	1
Penalty Yards	78	15
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	39:31	20:29

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
30 Qadree Ollison	18	52	2.9	8	0
22 Darrin Hall	13	44	3.4	14	1
19 V'Lique Carter	5	33	6.6	17	0
82 Rafael Araujo-Lopes	1	11	11.0	11	0
8 Kenny Pickett	8	6	0.8	12	0
70 Stefano Millin	1	6	6.0	6	1
35 George Aston	1	2	2.0	2	0
WAKE	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Cade Carney	16	62	3.9	14	0
DeAndre' Delaney	7	23	3.3	7	0
Christian Beal-Smith	1	3	3.0	3	0
12 Jamie Newman	3	-8	-2.7	3	0

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
8 Kenny Pickett	23	30	316	10.5	3	0	198.1
12 Jamie Newman	15	30	206	6.9	1	2	105.3

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
11 Taysir Mack	3	105	35.0	63	1
2 Maurice Ffrench	6	76	12.7	31	1
Rafael Araujo-Lopes	6	73	12.2	29	1
5 Tre Tipton	2	22	11.0	11	0
81 Jim Medure	2	14	7.0	11	0
22 Darrin Hall	3	13	4.3	5	0
6 Aaron Mathews	1	13	13.0	13	0
WAKE	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
14 Sage Surratt	3	67	22.3	30	0
1 Alex Bachman	4	60	15.0	28	1
23 Brandon Chapman	3	36	12.0	21	0
3 Greg Dortch	4	33	8.3	25	0
7 Scotty Washington	1	10	10.0	10	0