

WEEK TWELVE

TULSA AT NAVY

Abey leads Navy past Tulsa 37-29

ANNAPOLIS, Md. -- Navy football captain Anthony Gargiulo said teammate Zach Abey never ceases to amaze him.

Abey did not complain after being moved to wide receiver prior to the season, despite leading the team in rushing and touchdowns as a quarterback last season.

Abey took the change in stride and Gargiulo joked he wouldn't be surprised to see him playing center.

When coach Ken Niumatalolo needed a spark, he let Abey retake control of the offense as the starting quarterback. The senior came up big in his final home game.

Abey ran for 128 yards with a pair of touchdowns and Navy snapped a seven-game losing streak with a 37-29 victory over Tulsa on Saturday.

"I thought Zach played a great game," Niumatalolo said. "I'm really proud of him. I thought Zach played tremendous."

The teams entered the game tied for last in the West Division of the American Athletic Conference.

The Midshipmen (3-8, 2-5 AAC) were able to distance themselves behind Abey, who was making his third straight start at quarterback and was effective running the triple-option attack.

"We ran the Navy offense," Abey said. "We executed in every way. We played physical. We got after those guys and it showed. Everyone did their job."

Navy amassed 389 yards on the ground and sent the Golden Hurricane (2-9, 1-6) to their ninth loss in 10 games.

Navy slotback Malcolm Perry broke a 52-yard scamper early in third quarter that set up a short field goal by Bennett Moehring and increased its lead to 30-16. That run pushed Perry over 1,000 yards rushing for the second straight season.

Navy fullback Mike Martin had a critical fumble that led to a 3-yard touchdown run by Tulsa running back Corey Taylor early in the fourth quarter. Midshipmen defensive end Jarvis Polu blocked the extra point to keep the deficit at eight points.

Trey Walker answered on the ensuing possession when he took a pitch from Abey and ran 33 yards down the near sideline for a TD and a 37-22 lead.

Tulsa showed some life on a Taylor's third touchdown of the game with 4:46 remaining. However, Navy picked up a couple of first downs to seal the win.

"I think Navy's record is similar to ours," Tulsa coach Philip Montgomery said. "They played a tough schedule. They have been in a lot of close games and the ball just has not bounced their way. I thought (Abey) was back to his old form and he made some big plays."

Redshirt freshman quarterback Seth Boomer was 19 of 28 for 206 passing yards with an interception for Tulsa.

Navy fullback Nelson Smith had a pair of first-half touchdowns that provided a 13-7 lead early in the second quarter.

"Playing Navy is tough," Tulsa safety Manny Bunch said. "They have a lot of great athletes. You are not used to seeing that type of offense they run."

Navy linebacker Austin Talbert-Loving was penalized for targeting on a kickoff return early in the second quarter and was ejected. Tulsa safety McKinley Whitfield was called for the same infraction with just under 11 minutes left in the game.

TURNOVERS AID NAVY

Navy has forced 20 turnovers in 11 games. Over the last six years, the Midshipmen are 32-6 when they win the turnover battle.

THE TAKEAWAY

Tulsa: The Golden Hurricane have played mostly tough this season, losing five games by nine points or less. Tulsa can continue to build around sophomore running backs Shamari Brooks and Taylor, both of whom have helped carry the offense this year.

Navy: The Midshipmen have one more game to accrue added momentum before the regular-season finale against archrival Army on Dec. 8. Navy will face a stern challenge against the Black Knights, who are 9-2 and have won the past two meetings. A victory would help Navy salvage something from an overall disappointing season.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
TLSA	7	9	0	13	29
NAVY	7	20	3	7	37

Scoring Summary -----

	TLSA	NAVY
FIRST QUARTER		
TLSA TD 7:03 Corey Taylor II 1 Yd Run (John Parker Romo Kick)	7	0
14 plays, 51 yards, 5:53		
NAVY TD 1:26 Nelson Smith 10 Yd Run (Bennett Moehring Kick)		7
11 plays, 69 yards, 5:37		7
second Quarter	TLSA	NAVY
NAVY TD 12:45 Nelson Smith 26 Yd Run (Bennett Moehring PAT blocked)		13
5 plays, 60 yards, 2:05		
TLSA D2P 12:45 Reggie Robinson II Defensive PAT Conversion	9	13
5 plays, 60 yards, 2:05		
NAVY TD 9:16 Zach Abey 2 Yd Run (Bennett Moehring Kick)		20
6 plays, 31 yards, 2:37		
TLSA TD 7:20 Keylon Stokes 19 Yd Run (John Parker Romo Kick)	16	20
5 plays, 61 yards, 1:56		
NAVY TD 1:28 Zach Abey 2 Yd Run (Bennett Moehring Kick)		27
12 plays, 70 yards, 5:52		
third Quarter	TLSA	NAVY
NAVY FG 4:40 Bennett Moehring 21 Yd Field Goal	16	30
8 plays, 93 yards, 4:18		
fourth Quarter	TLSA	NAVY
TLSA TD 11:54 Corey Taylor II 3 Yd Run (John Parker Romo PAT blocked)	22	30
10 plays, 76 yards, 3:45		
NAVY TD 7:36 Tre Walker 33 Yd Run (Bennett Moehring Kick)		37
9 plays, 74 yards, 4:18		
TLSA TD 4:46 Corey Taylor II 1 Yd Run (John Parker Romo Kick)	29	37
7 plays, 45 yards, 2:50		

Team Stats	TLSA	NAVY
First Downs	22	21
Total Yards	370	404
Total Plays	72	65
Avg Gain Per Play	5.1	6.2
Net Yards Rushing	164	389
Rushes	44	63
Yards Per Rush	3.7	6.2
Net Yards Passing	206	15
Comp-Att	19-28	1-2
Yards Per Pass	7.4	7.5
Times Sacked	0	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	0
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	3	1
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	7	4
Penalty Yards	75	45
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Possession	27:37	32:23

Individual Stats

RUSHING

TLSA	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
3 Shamari Brooks	22	81	3.7	17	0
24 Corey Taylor II	15	45	3.0	15	3
2 Keylon Stokes	3	26	8.7	19	1
12 Seth Boomer	4	12	3.0	8	0
NAVY	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
9 Zach Abey	26	128	4.9	15	2
10 Malcolm Perry	6	76	12.7	52	0
21 Tre Walker	4	67	16.8	35	1
38 Anthony Gargiulo	14	58	4.1	8	0
43 Nelson Smith	5	48	9.6	26	2
25 Tazh Maloy	1	7	7.0	7	0
20 CJ Williams	1	6	6.0	6	0
34 Mike Martin	4	5	1.3	2	0

PASSING

TLSA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
12 Seth Boomer	19	28	206	7.4	0	1	122.5
NAVY	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
9 Zach Abey	1	2	15	7.5	0	0	113.0

RECEIVING

TLSA	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
4 Jarion Anderson	5	65	13.0	37	0
2 Keylon Stokes	6	56	9.3	21	0
38 Cole Neph	2	33	16.5	23	0
8 Keenen Johnson	4	29	7.3	9	0
29 Justin Hobbs	2	23	11.5	18	0
NAVY	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
20 CJ Williams	1	15	15.0	15	0