

WEEK TWELVE

UTSA AT MARSHALL

Marshall football: Herd defense put on a show vs. UTSA
HUNTINGTON – Marshall limited UTSA’s offense to 137 yards, which included a minus-26 total in rushing, as the Herd started strong and never looked back in a 23-0 win over the Roadrunners in front of 18,502 spectators in Joan C. Edwards Stadium.“There’s never been a team here in Marshall history to ever do that,” Marshall head coach Doc Holliday said. “That’s a first in how many ever years and there’s been some really good defensive football teams run through here. When you do that as a defense, that’s special.”

The minus-26 rushing yards is a program low for both Marshall in a defensive performance and for UTSA in an offensive output. The Roadrunners average a 1-yard loss on each carry of the football. It was Marshall’s first shutout since Sept. 16, 2017, 21-0 against Kent State, and the first time the Herd limited a team to negative rushing yards since a 2006 in a win over Hofstra.

For a senior-laden defense, it was a special memory as they exited Joan C. Edwards Stadium for the final time.“We had the mindset of making sure that we made a statement,” Marshall linebacker Chase Hancock said. “They beat us last year in a close game and it was kind of on the defense. We came into this game and wanted to make sure that didn’t happen this year.”

Marshall’s win continued a strong trend against the Roadrunners from a defensive perspective. In three career meetings against UTSA, Marshall has allowed just 19 points and one offensive touchdown.

For the Herd offense, quarterback Isaiah Green set a personal best, throwing for 387 yards and two touchdowns. Tyre Brady caught six passes for 162 yards and a touchdown while Obi Obialo caught five passes for 103 yards. It was the Herd’s first time having two receivers eclipse the 100-yard mark since Davonte Allen (141) and Tommy Shuler (132) against Western Kentucky in 2014.Marshall’s offense outgained UTSA 505 yards to 137.

Obialo said that despite the offense missing on scoring opportunities in the red zone, it was exciting to see all facets of the passing attack get into a rhythm such as the one they established between the 20-yard lines on Saturday.“It’s exciting, it’s fun – just going out there and just playing like we do in practice,” Obialo said. “It’s fun to see that play out in the game.”

The Herd’s lone score of the second half was a 26-yard field goal by Justin Rohrwasser, who connected on two other field goals while also recovering a fumble on a kickoff in the first half. Marshall (7-3, 5-2 Conference USA) took control early and led 20-0 at halftime when the Herd outgained UTSA 326 yards to 57.Green threw for 250 yards in the first half and connected on scoring strikes to Brady and Artie Henry.

The Herd had a slight scoring lull in the second quarter until Green’s 8-yard touchdown toss to Henry with 3:00 left extended the lead to three scores. A 21-yard field goal by Rohrwasser sent the teams to the locker room.It didn’t take long for Marshall to assert itself in all three phases Saturday. After UTSA’s first drive netted zero yards, Marshall methodically drove inside the 10-yard line before settling for a 26-yard field goal from Rohrwasser.It wouldn’t take long for the Herd to find the end zone soon after.

On the ensuing kickoff, Marshall’s Chase Hancock forced a fumble that Rohrwasser recovered, and Green went up top to Brady for a 37-yard score on the first play following the takeaway to give the Herd 10 points in a 13-second span.

Marshall’s first four drives started at midfield or better as the defense asserted its dominance early. The Herd did not allow UTSA (3-8, 2-5) a first down until 12:09 of the second quarter.

If there was a concern for the Herd it was the performance of the offense in the score zone early in the game.

All eight of Marshall’s first-half drives ended in UTSA territory, and the Herd had just four scores – two touchdowns and two field goals. The Herd offense drove inside the 10-yard line twice, but stalled out to settle for field goals while also having a field goal blocked and missing another.

“Offensively, we had 500-plus yards, but when you get down in the score zone, you’ve got to score points,” Holliday said. “We were kicking too many field goals and I felt all along in that game, we’ve just got to put the ball in the end zone. We’ve got to get better at doing that.” Marshall’s offense was a bit stagnant early, but the defense had no such issues, limiting UTSA to negative yards rushing in the first half and only three first downs.

UTSA quarterback Bryce Rivers came on in relief of starter Jordan Weeks and finished 16 of 31 for 158 passing yards and an interception. Marshall registered five quarterback sacks – led by a pair from Omari Cobb – to keep pressure on the Roadrunners’ passing game.“We weren’t quite sure who was going to play, but we knew they’d be inexperienced so we were going to bring pressure out of all personnel groups,” Marshall defensive coordinator Adam Fuller said. “We went more three-down this week than we had in other weeks and that was designed. We brought legitimate pressure in it – corner fires. We knew we had to apply pressure. If they were going to get yards, they were going to be hard yards. Our guys did a good job of executing.”

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UTSA	0	0	0	0	0
MRSH	10	10	3	0	23

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER		UTSA	MRSH
MRSH FG 9:30 Justin Rohrwasser 26 Yd Field Goal		0	3
10 plays, 41 yards, 4:12			
MRSH TD 9:17 Tyre Brady 37 Yd pass from Isaiah Green (Justin Rohrwasser Kick) 1 play, 37 yards, 0:06		0	10
second Quarter		UTSA	MRSH
MRSH TD 3:00 Artie Henry III 8 Yd pass from Isaiah Green (Justin Rohrwasser Kick) 5 plays, 90 yards, 1:07		0	17
MRSH FG 0:00 Justin Rohrwasser 21 Yd Field Goal		0	
9 plays, 49 yards, 2:10			20
third Quarter		UTSA	MRSH
MRSH FG 9:32 Justin Rohrwasser 25 Yd Field Goal		0	23
7 plays, 76 yards, 3:03			

Team Stats	UTSA	MRSH
First Downs	10	22
Total Yards	137	505
Total Plays	55	73
Avg Gain Per Play	2.5	6.9
Net Yards Rushing	-26	118
Rushes	21	37
Yards Per Rush	-1.2	3.2
Net Yards Passing	163	387
Comp-Att	17-34	19-36
Yards Per Pass	4.8	10.8
Times Sacked	1	5
Yds Lost To Sacks	-7	-39
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	10	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	10	6
Penalty Yards	73	49
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	25:33	34:27

Individual Stats

RUSHING

UTSA	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
33 B.J. Daniels	4	10	2.5	5	0
22 Brenden Brady	10	4	0.4	4	0
89 Matt Guidry	1	2	2.0	2	0
39 Yannis Routsas	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
17 Bryce Rivers	5	-39	-7.8	0	0
MRSH	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
20 Brenden Knox	15	56	3.7	12	0
24 Keion Davis	12	49	4.1	18	0
1 Willie Johnson	1	7	7.0	7	0
17 Isaiah Green	5	4	0.8	4	0
21 Anthony Anderson	2	3	1.5	4	0
9 Marcel Williams	1	2	2.0	2	0

PASSING

UTSA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
17 Bryce Rivers	16	31	158	5.1	0	1	88.0
9 Jordan Weeks	1	3	5	1.7	0	0	47.3
MRSH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
17 Isaiah Green	19	36	387	10.8	2	0	161.4

RECEIVING

UTSA	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
10 Greg Campbell Jr.	7	84	12.0	20	0
4 Marquez McNair	3	38	12.7	15	0
2 Sheldon Jones	3	18	6.0	11	0
22 Brenden Brady	1	15	15.0	15	0
Tykee Ogle-Kellogg	2	10	5.0	5	0
87 Gavin Sharp	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
MRSH	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
8 Tyre Brady	6	162	27.0	50	1
7 Obi Obialo	5	103	20.6	45	0
15 Armani Levias	2	46	23.0	32	0
9 Marcel Williams	1	39	39.0	39	0
20 Brenden Knox	1	12	12.0	12	0
11 Xavier Gaines	1	9	9.0	9	0
24 Keion Davis	2	8	4.0	7	0
2 Artie Henry	1	8	8.0	8	1