

WEEK THIRTEEN

TENNESSEE AT VANDERBILT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Derek Mason knows exactly what Vanderbilt's rivalry with Tennessee means thanks to an orange mailbox he passes every day on his way to work. Now the coach and his Commodores have a piece of history not seen in the Volunteer State in nearly a century. Kyle Shurmur completed his first 15 passes and finished with 367 yards and three touchdowns as the Vanderbilt Commodores routed in-state rival Tennessee 38-13 Saturday to become bowl eligible for the second time in three seasons. Vanderbilt (6-6, 3-5 Southeastern Conference) also won its third straight over Tennessee, something the Commodores hadn't managed since a six-game streak that ended in 1926. Mason now has beaten three different Tennessee coaches in each of the last three seasons, and Vanderbilt has beaten four Vols coaches winning five of the last seven.

"I've been in this rivalry game when we lost and I heard about it for 365 days, and that's a tough deal ...," Mason said. "I think our guys understand that, they live in this city, they understand what this rivalry game is and I think they don't treat it any different, I just think they want it more right now. So with that being said, it's been fun playing in this game."

Tennessee (5-7, 2-6) sacked Shurmur three times. That didn't stop Vanderbilt from simply dominating the Vols, outgaining them 467-242 in total offense and holding the ball for more than 43 minutes.

"This is the football team that I thought I had going into the season," Mason said after dancing on the middle of the field in celebration.

First-year coach Jeremy Pruitt said the best team won. "We have a long way to go," Pruitt said. "I think our kids improved as the season went. We had a couple kids that got injured late that I don't think helped us down the stretch. I think Vanderbilt deserved to win. They outplayed us."

Shurmur saves his best each season for the Vols. He threw for a career-high 416 yards in 2016 and four TD passes in last season's win. In his final game at Vanderbilt Stadium, Shurmur put on a show with his first incompleting coming with 56 seconds left in the first half.

He finished 31 of 35 completing passes to nine different receivers with TD passes of 17 yards to Jared Pinkney, 26 yards to freshman Amir Abdur-Rahman and Cody Markel. Shurmur improved his own school record in a game by completing 88.6 percent of his passes.

Wide receiver Kalija Lipscomb and Khari Blasingame each ran for TDs, and Ryley Guay added a 43-yard field goal for the Commodores.

"Anytime you get a chance to beat UT, it's just a great feeling man," Vandy linebacker Jordan Griffin said. Tennessee played without starting right guard Nathan Niehaus, who didn't dress for the game, and lost left guard Jahmir Johnson late in the final seconds of the first half for targeting. Review showed Johnson hit Vanderbilt safety LaDarius Wiley in the head after an interception by Commodores safety Frank Coppet.

That interception ended Jarrett Guarantano's school record at 167 straight passes without a pick.

TAKEAWAYS

Tennessee: The Vols lost two straight to end the season, outscored 88-30 in losses to Missouri and Vanderbilt when they needed only one victory to become bowl eligible in coach Jeremy Pruitt's debut season. ... Tennessee still leads this series 75-33-5.

Vanderbilt: Ke'Shawn Vaughn became only the sixth different running back to rush for 1,000 yards with the Commodores' eighth all-time 1,000-yard season. He ran six times for 25 yards, giving him 1,001 yards for the season. He also caught two passes for 33 yards more. But Vaughn took a hit to the head on Vandy's first TD drive, then he got hit by a pair of Tennessee defenders on his sixth and final run. He went to the locker room with an injured left arm and shoulder.

MASON'S PLACE IN HISTORY

Mason now is just the second Vandy coach to beat Tennessee at least three times, joining Dan McGugin who led the Commodores to six straight between 1920 and 1926. This also is Vanderbilt's largest margin of victory in this series since a 26-0 win over the Vols in 1954.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
TENN	0	0	7	6	13
VAN	7	10	0	21	38

Scoring Summary -----

	TENN	VAN
FIRST QUARTER		
VAN TD 1:38		
Jared Pinkney 17 Yd pass from Kyle Shurmur (Ryley Guay Kick)	0	7
11 plays, 84 yards, 7:04		
SECOND QUARTER		
VAN TD 10:33		
Kalija Lipscomb 2 Yd Run (Ryley Guay Kick)	0	14
10 plays, 66 yards, 5:21		
VAN FG 0:51		
Ryley Guay 43 Yd Field Goal	0	17
13 plays, 55 yards, 5:32		
THIRD QUARTER		
TENN TD 14:48		
Ty Chandler 75 Yd Run (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	7	17
1 play, 75 yards, 0:12		
FOURTH QUARTER		
VAN TD 14:29		
Amir Abdur-Rahman 26 Yd pass from Kyle Shurmur (Ryley Guay Kick)	7	24
3 plays, 48 yards, 0:33		
VAN TD 9:02		
Khari Blasingame 1 Yd Run (Ryley Guay Kick)	7	31
8 plays, 63 yards, 4:25		
TENN TD 8:31		
Marquez Callaway 17 Yd pass from Jarrett Guarantano (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)	13	31
3 plays, 75 yards, 0:31		
VAN TD 2:33		
Cody Markel 2 Yd pass from Kyle Shurmur (Ryley Guay Kick)	13	38
10 plays, 49 yards, 5:58		

Team Stats	TENN	VAN
First Downs	12	29
Total Yards	242	467
Total Plays	47	78
Avg Gain Per Play	5.1	6.0
Net Yards Rushing	103	100
Rushes	14	43
Yards Per Rush	7.4	2.3
Net Yards Passing	139	367
Comp-Att	13-33	31-35
Yards Per Pass	4.2	10.5
Times Sacked	1	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-8	-24
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	8	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	3	3
Penalty Yards	25	43
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	16:57	43:03

Individual Stats

RUSHING					
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
TENN					
Ty Chandler	7	88	12.6	1	75
Tim Jordan	5	27	5.4	0	19
Jarrett Guarantano	2	-12	-6.0	0	0
VAN					
Khari Blasingame	20	70	3.5	1	21
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	6	25	4.2	0	7
Donaven Tennyson	1	8	8.0	0	8
Kalija Lipscomb	5	6	1.2	1	9
Jamauri Wakefield	3	3	1.0	0	4
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Kyle Shurmur	7	-10	-1.4	0	9

PASSING							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
TENN							
Jarrett Guarantano	13	29	139	4.8	1	1	19.2
Keller Chryst	0	4	0	0.0	0	0	13.1
VAN							
Kyle Shurmur	31	35	367	10.5	3	0	92.7

RECEIVING					
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
TENN					
Jauan Jennings	2	51	25.5	0	43
Marquez Callaway	3	36	12.0	1	17
Josh Palmer	2	22	11.0	0	12
Dominick Wood-Anderson	3	14	4.7	0	8
Jordan Murphy	2	11	5.5	0	6
Tim Jordan	1	5	5.0	0	5
VAN					
C.J. Bolar	6	93	15.5	0	41
Kalija Lipscomb	8	86	10.8	0	23
Khari Blasingame	6	62	10.3	0	21
Amir Abdur-Rahman	2	41	20.5	1	26
Jared Pinkney	4	40	10.0	1	17
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	2	33	16.5	0	19
Chris Pierce	1	7	7.0	0	7
Jamauri Wakefield	1	3	3.0	0	3
Cody Markel	1	2	2.0	1	2