

WEEK THREE
ALABAMA at SOUTH CAROLINA

Tua's career day propels Tide in SEC opener

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- Tua Tagovailoa threw for a career-high 444 yards and tied his personal best with five touchdowns to help No. 2 Alabama open Southeastern Conference play with a 47-23 victory over South Carolina on Saturday.

Coach Nick Saban improved to 12-1 at Alabama in SEC openers and wiped away some bad memories of his previous visit to Williams-Brice Stadium nine years ago. Tagovailoa and his receivers quickly got the Crimson Tide (3-0, 1-0) rolling with first-quarter TD passes of 24 yards to Najee Harris and 81 yards to Henry Ruggs III. Whenever the Gamecocks (1-2, 0-1) drew within range, Tagovailoa came right back to restore Alabama's edge.

Harris added a 42-yard catch-and-run score in which he broke two tackles and leaped over defensive back R.J. Roderick on the way to the end zone. DeVonta Smith caught Tagovailoa's last TD pass, also for 42 yards.

Saban reminded his players, about all who were in middle or elementary school in 2010, of the Tides' previous game here when the top-ranked Tide were soundly beaten 35-21.

And the Gamecocks tried anything they could to pull off another miracle, but little worked -- especially with Tagovailoa in complete control.

Parker White's fake field goal run to the end zone was called back because of holding. Alabama snuffed out a fake punt to stop the Gamecocks well short of a first down. And when South Carolina drove to Alabama's 1 on the final play of the half, freshman Ryan Hilinski's pass to the back of the end zone was off target.

Tagovailoa's passing yards were the third most in school history. He bettered his previous mark of 387 yards against Texas A&M and tied his personal best for touchdowns set against Auburn, both of those coming in 2018.

Smith and Ruggs both surpassed 100 yards receiving. Smith had 136 yards on eight catches, including two TDs. Ruggs had six catches for 122 yards.

THE TAKEAWAY

Alabama: The Crimson Tide played a game sure to please Saban: good enough to win by double-digits but with enough mistakes on defense for him to drill into players before next week. Alabama allowed a 300-yard passer and a 100-yard rusher, both benchmarks Saban likely will hone in going forward.

South Carolina: The Gamecocks showed some pluck in the face of the defending national champions. Freshman quarterback Ryan Hilinski threw for 324 yards and two touchdowns in his second career game with expected starter Jake Bentley lost for the season.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Alabama's performance wasn't perfect, but it should certainly keep the Tide at No. 2 without major upheaval in the rankings.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ALA	14	10	10	13	47
SC	10	0	3	10	23

Scoring Summary

	ALA	SC
FIRST QUARTER		
ALA TD 13:21 Najee Harris 24 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Will Reichard Kick)	7	0
5 plays, 65 yards, 1:39		
SC FG 8:31 Parker White 44 Yd Field Goal	7	3
14 plays, 60 yards, 4:50		
ALA TD 3:15 Henry Ruggs III 81 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Will Reichard Kick)	14	3
4 plays, 96 yards, 1:55		
SC TD 1:49 Shi Smith 31 Yd pass from Ryan Hilinski (Parker White Kick)	14	10
6 plays, 75 yards, 1:26		
SECOND QUARTER		
ALA FG 13:10 Will Reichard 23 Yd Field Goal	17	10
10 plays, 70 yards, 3:39		
ALA TD 7:40 Najee Harris 42 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Will Reichard Kick)	24	10
7 plays, 65 yards, 4:12		
THIRD QUARTER		
SC FG 11:26 Parker White 28 Yd Field Goal	24	13
11 plays, 71 yards, 3:34		
ALA TD 9:52 DeVonta Smith 42 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Will Reichard Kick)	31	13
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:34		
ALA FG 0:52 Will Reichard 21 Yd Field Goal	34	13
13 plays, 50 yards, 6:35		
FOURTH QUARTER		
SC FG 14:49 Parker White 48 Yd Field Goal	34	16
6 plays, 45 yards, 1:03		
ALA TD 13:41 DeVonta Smith 11 Yd pass from Tua Tagovailoa (Will Reichard PAT failed)	40	16
3 plays, 40 yards, 1:08		
ALA TD 2:04 Mac Jones 1 Yd Run (Will Reichard Kick)	47	16
12 plays, 80 yards, 7:47		
SC TD 0:11 Kyle Markway 11 Yd pass from Ryan Hilinski (Parker White Kick)	47	23
11 plays, 76 yards, 1:53		
Team Stats		
First Downs	25	31
Passes for First	18	22
Rushes for First	6	5
Penalties for First	1	4
Third Down Efficiency	6-12	8-18
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-2	2-4
Total Yards	571	459
Total Plays	64	86
Avg Gain Per Play	8.9	5.3
Net Yards Rushing	76	135
Rushes	25	29
Yards Per Rush	3.0	4.7
Net Yards Passing	495	324
Comp-Att	31-39	36-57
Yards Per Pass	12.7	5.7
Times Sacked	2	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-12	-16
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	1	2
Punt Average	14.0	45.5
Penalties	11	5
Penalty Yards	92	32
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	32:37	27:23

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
ALABAMA					
Najee Harris	7	36	5.1	0	12
Brian Robinson Jr.	8	33	4.1	0	11
Keilan Robinson	4	12	3.0	0	4
Jaylen Waddle	1	5	5.0	0	5
Slade Bolden	1	2	2.0	0	2
Mac Jones	1	1	1.0	1	1
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Tua Tagovailoa	2	-12	-6.0	0	0
SOUTH CAROLINA					
Rico Dowdle	12	102	8.5	0	33
Tavien Feaster	10	33	3.3	0	7
Parker White	1	3	3.0	0	3
Shi Smith	1	2	2.0	0	2
Ryan Hilinski	5	-5	-1.0	0	2

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
ALABAMA							
Tua Tagovailoa	28	36	444	12.3	5	0	
Mac Jones	3	3	51	17.0	0	0	
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Ryan Hilinski	36	57	324	5.7	2	1	

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
ALABAMA					
DeVonta Smith	8	136	17.0	2	42
Henry Ruggs III	6	122	20.3	1	81
Najee Harris	5	87	17.4	2	42
Jerry Jeudy	6	68	11.3	0	30
Brian Robinson Jr.	2	37	18.5	0	34
Slade Bolden	1	14	14.0	0	14
Major Tennison	1	12	12.0	0	12
Jaylen Waddle	1	12	12.0	0	12
Miller Forristall	1	7	7.0	0	7
SOUTH CAROLINA					
Shi Smith	6	90	15.0	1	31
Bryan Edwards	9	79	8.8	0	27
Kyle Markway	5	46	9.2	1	13
Josh Vann	4	23	5.8	0	9
Rico Dowdle	3	21	7.0	0	11
Nick Muse	4	21	5.3	0	10
Tavien Feaster	2	17	8.5	0	10
OrTre Smith	2	14	7.0	0	10
Dakereon Joyner	1	13	13.0	0	13