

WEEK FIVE
DELAWARE at PITTSBURGH

Pitt survives scare from Delaware, 17-14

PITTSBURGH -- Backup Nick Patti capped a fourth-quarter drive with a touchdown pass to help Pittsburgh survive a scare from Delaware, 17-14, on Saturday.

Patti, who started in place of Kenny Pickett, directed an eight-play, 90-yard drive, finding Taysir Mack in the end zone from 12 yards out. The long drive put the Panthers in the lead for good after an unexpectedly close battle with the Blue Hens.

"That was not the Pitt football team I like to see," coach Pat Narduzzi said. "I don't think we came out with the emotion that we could have. I thought we came out flat. Blame me for that."

A pair of short fields after Pitt turnovers led to touchdowns for Delaware. After a Patti interception in the second quarter, Nolan Henderson passed 7 yards to Gene Coleman II to tie the game.

When Maurice Ffrench fumbled in the third quarter to give Delaware another short field, Henderson hit Jourdan Townsend with a 5-yard score to give the Blue Hens a four-point lead.

"We had a little momentum and we had the opportunity to extend our lead and we just were not able to do that," Delaware coach Danny Rocco said.

That's when Pitt responded with the long drive from Patti, who finished 23 of 37 for 271 yards, two touchdowns and an interception while making his first career start. He relied heavily on Mack, who had five catches for 124 yards.

"He's a guy that takes the top off the defense and is a great playmaker," Patti said. "But we have more guys like that. It was just Taysir getting his number called, going out and executing."

In addition to Pickett, Pitt played without top running backs A.J. Davis and Vincent Davis and starting cornerback Jason Pinnock. Narduzzi said after the game that all of them were dealing with injuries but declined to reveal their statuses moving forward.

Todd Sibley saw his most extensive action at running back, with 22 carries for 106 yards.

THE TAKEAWAY

Delaware: The Blue Hens had one shot against a Power Five team on their 2019 schedule, and they made an impact by taking Pitt to the wire. The question will be whether they can translate that showing at the FCS level where Delaware plays in a Colonial Athletic Conference that features six ranked teams, including the Blue Hens.

Pitt: Despite the win, the slog over the Blue Hens sapped any momentum the Panthers may have had coming off an upset over then-No. 15 UCF a week ago. The absence of Pickett is concerning for the Panthers' offense. He entered the week fifth in the FBS in completions per game.

| Final | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | T |
|-------|---|----|---|---|----|
| DEL | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 14 |
| PITT | 0 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 17 |

Scoring Summary -----

| SECOND QUARTER | DEL | PITT |
|---|-----|------|
| PITT TD 14:54 V'Lique Carter 30 Yd pass from Nick Patti (Alex Kessman Kick) | | |
| 6 plays, 62 yards, 2:34 | 0 | 7 |
| DEL TD 6:28 Gene Coleman II 7 Yd pass from Nolan Henderson (Jake Roth Kick) | | |
| 6 plays, 41 yards, 2:00 | 7 | 7 |
| PITT FG 0:08 Alex Kessman 21 Yd Field Goal | | |
| 17 plays, 73 yards, 6:20 | 7 | 10 |
| THIRD QUARTER | DEL | PITT |
| DEL TD 12:53 Jourdan Townsend 5 Yd pass from Nolan Henderson (Jake Roth Kick) | | |
| 5 plays, 21 yards, 1:32 | 14 | 10 |
| FOURTH QUARTER | DEL | PITT |
| PITT TD 10:33 Taysir Mack 12 Yd pass from Nick Patti (Alex Kessman Kick) | | |
| 8 plays, 90 yards, 3:37 | 14 | 17 |

| Team Stats | DEL | PITT |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| First Downs | 15 | 21 |
| Passes for First | 6 | 10 |
| Rushes for First | 4 | 10 |
| Penalties for First | 5 | 1 |
| Third Down Efficiency | 3-14 | 7-18 |
| Fourth Down Efficiency | 0-0 | 1-2 |
| Total Yards | 170 | 443 |
| Total Plays | 62 | 76 |
| Avg Gain Per Play | 2.7 | 5.8 |
| Net Yards Rushing | 43 | 172 |
| Rushes | 31 | 39 |
| Yards Per Rush | 1.4 | 4.4 |
| Net Yards Passing | 127 | 271 |
| Comp-Att | 14-31 | 23-37 |
| Yards Per Pass | 4.1 | 7.3 |
| Times Sacked | 0 | 6 |
| Yds Lost To Sacks | 0 | -30 |
| Interceptions | 0 | 1 |
| Punts | 9 | 5 |
| Punt Average | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Penalties | 3 | 13 |
| Penalty Yards | 26 | 115 |
| Fumbles | 0 | 1 |
| Fumbles Lost | 0 | 1 |
| Time of Poss | 26:57 | 33:03 |

Individual Stats

RUSHING

| DELAWARE | Rush | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
|----------------------|------|-----|------|----|------|
| Will Knight | 9 | 40 | 4.4 | 0 | 15 |
| Andre Robinson | 8 | 7 | 0.9 | 0 | 4 |
| Nolan Henderson | 12 | 3 | 0.3 | 0 | 14 |
| Team | 1 | -2 | -2.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gene Coleman II | 1 | -5 | -5.0 | 0 | 0 |
| PITTSBURGH | Rush | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
| Todd Sibley Jr. | 22 | 106 | 4.8 | 0 | 20 |
| V'Lique Carter | 9 | 42 | 4.7 | 0 | 14 |
| Maurice Ffrench | 2 | 12 | 6.0 | 0 | 7 |
| Shocky Jacques-Louis | 1 | 10 | 10.0 | 0 | 10 |
| Nick Patti | 2 | 6 | 3.0 | 0 | 3 |
| Team | 3 | -4 | -1.3 | 0 | 0 |

PASSING

| DELAWARE | Comp | Att | Yds | Y/A | TD | Int | QBRat |
|-----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-------|
| Nolan Henderson | 14 | 31 | 127 | 4.1 | 2 | 0 | -- |
| PITTSBURGH | Comp | Att | Yds | Y/A | TD | Int | QBRat |
| Nick Patti | 23 | 37 | 271 | 7.3 | 2 | 1 | 61.4 |

RECEIVING

| DELAWARE | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|------|----|------|
| Gene Coleman II | 5 | 61 | 12.2 | 1 | 25 |
| Thyrick Pitts | 2 | 23 | 11.5 | 0 | 21 |
| Owen Tyler | 1 | 17 | 17.0 | 0 | 17 |
| Jourdan Townsend | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 1 | 8 |
| Will Knight | 2 | 11 | 5.5 | 0 | 10 |
| Andre Robinson | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 0 | 7 |
| PITTSBURGH | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
| Taysir Mack | 5 | 124 | 24.8 | 1 | 48 |
| Maurice Ffrench | 9 | 57 | 6.3 | 0 | 12 |
| V'Lique Carter | 3 | 37 | 12.3 | 1 | 30 |
| Aaron Mathews | 1 | 16 | 16.0 | 0 | 16 |
| Todd Sibley Jr. | 1 | 16 | 16.0 | 0 | 16 |
| Will Gragg | 1 | 10 | 10.0 | 0 | 10 |
| Nakia Griffin-Stewart | 2 | 6 | 3.0 | 0 | 3 |
| John Vardzel | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 0 | 5 |