

WEEK SIX  
TULSA at SMU

**No. 24 SMU rallies to stay unbeaten with triple-overtime win**

DALLAS -- Not since the Pony Express days with Eric Dickerson and Craig James has SMU been undefeated this deep into a season.

Ranked for the first time in 33 years, the No. 24 Mustangs overcame a three-touchdown deficit in the fourth quarter, converted six fourth downs and finally beat Tulsa 43-37 when Shane Buechele threw a 25-yard touchdown to James Proche in the third overtime Saturday night. "For us to go down 21 and just for them to keep playing, hang in there and figure out a way to win the game, it's a real credit to their character," second-year SMU coach Sonny Dykes said.

After Tulsa missed its second field goal in overtime, Proche made a leaping catch in the front corner of the end zone over a defender and got a foot down before going out of bounds. The play was initially ruled incomplete before being overturned on replay review.

"We knew we were a second-half team" said Proche, who had 11 catches for 153 yards and two scores. "I don't think it was anything with Tulsa's defense. We just stayed the course and played SMU football."

SMU (6-0, 2-0 American) this week moved into the AP poll for the first time since October 1986, before NCAA sanctions that included the so-called "death penalty." The Mustangs didn't field a team in 1987 and 1988.

They were previously 6-0 in 1982, when Dickerson and James were part of an unbeaten 11-0-1 season.

Xavier Jones ran for 121 yards and scored two game-tying touchdowns for SMU before he fumbled in the second overtime. But the Golden Hurricane couldn't take advantage when Jacob Rainey missed a 43-yard field goal attempt wide left.

Tulsa (2-3, 0-1) had the ball to start the third overtime, and used a different kicker after failing to get a first down. But Zack Long was wide left on a 42-yard attempt.

"A tough game to come out on the wrong side of," Tulsa coach Philip Montgomery said. "I thought our guys played extremely hard. I thought they emptied their tanks, didn't leave anything out there."

Jones had a 4-yard TD run on a fourth-down play with 1 minute, 2 seconds left in regulation. His 3-yard score after a 15-yard pass on fourth down forced the second overtime after Zach Smith's fourth touchdown pass, a 7-yarder to Josh Johnson, opened the overtime scoring.

The Mustangs were down 30-9 before touchdowns on their final three possessions in regulation. SMU went at least 73 yards and converted fourth downs on each of those possessions, and converted 6 of 7 fourth downs overall.

"A team that's been playing extremely well. We know that they can catch fire and do some things," Montgomery said. "I think it helped them a little bit in the fourth quarter being down, because every possession is crucial, so they're really playing four-down territory all of the way through it. ... One stop here or there and we're off the field and it could be a different story."

Buechele, the former Texas quarterback, finished 23-of-40 passing for 280 yards and the two TDs to Proche.

Smith was 23-of-41 for 346 yards, but also threw three interceptions before halftime. The first was returned 64 yards by Ar'mani Johnson for a touchdown in the first quarter.

Ke'Mon Freeman had a 1-yard scoring run for SMU on the first play of the fourth quarter, capping a 19-play drive with two fourth-down conversions, one near midfield on a run and the other a pass interference penalty in the end zone on fourth-and-goal from the 1. Buechele threw a 30-yard TD to Proche with 8:24 left, two plays after the quarterback's 3-yard keeper on fourth-and-1.

Tulsa had a 16-6 lead early in the second quarter after scoring two touchdowns with only 1 second ticking off the clock. Smith threw the first of his two touchdowns to a wide-open Keylon Stokes for a 58-yard catch-and-run. On the ensuing kickoff, SMU didn't secure the loose ball and Kendarin Ray dove on it in the front corner of the end zone for another touchdown.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Tulsa: The Golden Hurricane will bemoan the mistakes that cost them a chance for the upset on the road, considering the 23-9 halftime lead despite the three interceptions and the missed field goal that would have ended the game in the second overtime. They have lost 17 in a row to Top 25 teams since a 62-35 victory over No. 24 Hawai'i in the Hawai'i Bowl on Christmas Eve nine years ago. Tulsa won the regular-season finale at home against SMU last November to keep the Mustangs from getting bowl-eligible in Dykes' first season.

SMU: This matched the second-largest comeback in school history, the largest being a win at Baylor in 1975 after being down 25 points. ... The Mustangs have scored at least 41 points in their past five games. While they needed two overtime touchdowns to do that against Tulsa, they clearly have plenty of offense with AAC passing leader Buechele, rushing leader Jones and two of the top receivers in Proche and Reggie Roberson Jr.

<b>Final</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>T</b>
TLSA	3	20	7	0	7	37
SMU	6	3	0	21	13	43

**Scoring Summary -----**

FIRST QUARTER		TLSA	SMU
SMU TD 8:13 Ar'mani Johnson 64 Yd Interception Return (Kevin Robledo PAT blocked)			
5 plays, 30 yards, 1:02		0	6
TLSA FG 4:16 Jacob Rainey 32 Yd Field Goal			
9 plays, 38 yards, 3:57		3	6
SECOND QUARTER		TLSA	SMU
TLSA TD 13:46 Keylon Stokes 58 Yd pass from Zach Smith (Jacob Rainey Kick)			
4 plays, 69 yards, 1:27		10	6
TLSA TD 13:45 Kendarin Ray 1 Yd Fumble Return (Jacob Rainey PAT blocked)			
0 plays, 0 yards, 0:00		16	6
SMU FG 7:34 Kevin Robledo 32 Yd Field Goal			
7 plays, 17 yards, 1:40		16	9
TLSA TD 5:23 Keylon Stokes 5 Yd pass from Zach Smith (Jacob Rainey Kick)			
5 plays, 71 yards, 2:11		23	9
THIRD QUARTER		TLSA	SMU
TLSA TD 11:47 Keenen Johnson 40 Yd pass from Zach Smith (Jacob Rainey Kick)			
7 plays, 68 yards, 3:13		30	9
FOURTH QUARTER		TLSA	SMU
SMU TD 14:56 Ke'Mon Freeman 1 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)			
19 plays, 73 yards, 7:35		30	16
SMU TD 8:24 James Proche 30 Yd pass from Shane Buechele (Kevin Robledo Kick)			
10 plays, 92 yards, 3:01		30	23
SMU TD 1:02 Xavier Jones 4 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)			
14 plays, 80 yards, 4:29		30	30
OVERTIME		TLSA	SMU
TLSA TD Josh Johnson 7 Yd pass from Zach Smith (Jacob Rainey Kick)			
5 plays, 25 yards		37	30
SMU TD Xavier Jones 3 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)			
5 plays, 25 yards		37	37
THIRD OVERTIME		TLSA	SMU
SMU TD James Proche 25 Yd pass from Shane Buechele			
1 play, 25 yards		37	43

Team Stats	TLSA	SMU
First Downs	22	25
Passes for First	13	13
Rushes for First	7	7
Penalties for First	2	5
Third Down Efficiency	7-16	5-20
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	6-7
Total Yards	500	440
Total Plays	76	91
Avg Gain Per Play	6.6	4.8
Net Yards Rushing	154	130
Rushes	35	49
Yards Per Rush	4.4	2.7
Net Yards Passing	346	310
Comp-Att	23-41	24-42
Yards Per Pass	8.4	7.4
Times Sacked	1	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-5	-17
Interceptions	3	0
Punts	4	6
Punt Average	40.0	41.3
Penalties	10	9
Penalty Yards	97	80
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	2
Time of Poss	29:21	30:39

**Individual Stats**

RUSHING					
TLSA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Shamari Brooks	16	95	5.9	0	57
Corey Taylor II	14	49	3.5	0	31
T.K. Wilkerson	3	11	3.7	0	4
Zach Smith	2	-1	-0.5	0	4
SMU					
SMU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Xavier Jones	26	121	4.7	2	14
Ke'Mon Freeman	11	14	1.3	1	7
TJ McDaniel	7	10	1.4	0	4
Shane Buechele	5	-15	-3.0	0	5

PASSING							
TLSA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Zach Smith	23	41	346	8.4	4	3	76.2
SMU							
SMU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Shane Buechele	23	40	280	7.0	2	0	57.5
Tyler Page	1	1	30	30.0	0	0	99.9
Ke'Mon Freeman	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	12.8

RECEIVING					
TLSA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Keylon Stokes	5	101	20.2	2	58
Josh Johnson	9	92	10.2	1	33
Keenen Johnson	4	70	17.5	1	40
JuanCarlos Santana	1	42	42.0	0	42
Sam Crawford Jr.	4	41	10.3	0	16
SMU					
SMU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
James Proche	11	153	13.9	2	30
Rashee Rice	4	78	19.5	0	30
Reggie Roberson Jr.	4	35	8.8	0	13
Tyler Page	2	23	11.5	0	14
Xavier Jones	2	12	6.0	0	10
Kylen Granson	1	9	9.0	0	9