

WEEK SEVEN
 FRESNO ST at AIR FORCE

Hammond's 2 TD runs help Air Force beat Fresno State 43-24

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- Once Air Force got its ground game going, Fresno State had nowhere to go, run or pass.

Donald Hammond III ran for two touchdowns and threw for another, Kyle Johnson returned an interception for a score and Air Force pulled away in the second half to beat Fresno State 43-24 Saturday night.

"It was the tale of two halves," said Air Force coach Troy Calhoun, whose squad blanked the Bulldogs in the second half with an opportunistic defense and an offense that hung on to the ball with an effective running attack.

Air Force kept the Bulldogs bottled up on their side of the field throughout the second half.

"I don't think we changed too much other than our mentality, trusting the guys next to us," safety Garrett Kauppila said. Ben Waters caught a 53-yard touchdown pass from Hammond, who also ran for a 2-point conversion. Timothy Jackson ran 2 yards and Taven Birdow 3 yards for additional scores for Air Force (4-2, 2-1 Mountain West), which has won its last three meetings against the Bulldogs. Jackson led the Falcons' rushing attack with 117 yards on 20 carries. Hammond ran for 37 yards and completed 2 of 3 passes for 81 yards.

Jorge Reyna had scoring passes of 4 yards to Derrion Grim and 7 yards to Emoryie Edwards, and Ronnie Rivers added a 26-yard touchdown run for Fresno State (2-3, 0-1). All of the Bulldogs' scores came in an explosive first half, when neither team punted but the Falcons made adjustments and blanked Fresno State over the final two quarters. Reyna finished 20 of 27 for 209 yards passing.

"During the first half, we hung in there," Fresno State coach Jeff Tedford said. "But the second half we couldn't get off the field defensively ...and we couldn't sustain drives on offense."

Trailing by two points at the half, the Falcons focused on their punishing run game to start the third quarter, chewing up ground and the clock in steady bursts. Hammond converted a fourth-and-1 play with a 3-yard off-tackle run to the 15 and, three plays later, Birdow finished off the drive with a 3-yard touchdown that put the Falcons up 29-24.

Air Force put together another time-consuming drive that Hammond ended with a 3-yard scoring run early in the fourth quarter and Johnson ended Fresno State's ensuing possession with his interception, jumping in front of a receiver in traffic to swipe the ball on the run and race into the end zone untouched for the score. It was the second career pick-6 for Johnson, who also had a key sack in the first half.

THE TAKEAWAY

Fresno State: The Bulldogs' explosive offense could not regain its footing in the second half, and their defense seemed to wear down in the later stages, unable to stand up to the Falcons withering run game.

Air Force: The Falcons refocused on their ground game in the second half, putting together clock-killing drives that kept the ball away from a Fresno State offense that had moved the ball with aplomb earlier in the game. Air Force also turned up the defensive pressure on the Bulldogs with a more effective pass rush and tighter pass coverage.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
FRES	14	10	0	0	24
AFA	7	15	7	14	43

Scoring Summary -----

	FRES	AFA
FIRST QUARTER		
FRES TD 11:24 Derrion Grim 4 Yd pass from Jorge Reyna (Cesar Silva Kick)		
7 plays, 85 yards, 3:36	7	0
AFA TD 10:07 Benjamin Waters 53 Yd pass from Donald Hammond III (Jake Koehnke Kick)		
3 plays, 75 yards, 1:17	7	7
FRES TD 3:51 Emoryie Edwards 7 Yd pass from Jorge Reyna (Cesar Silva Kick)		
12 plays, 75 yards, 6:16	14	7
SECOND QUARTER		
AFA TD 11:48 Timothy Jackson 2 Yd Run (Jake Koehnke Kick)		
14 plays, 75 yards, 7:03	14	14
FRES TD 9:32 Ronnie Rivers 26 Yd Run (Cesar Silva Kick)		
6 plays, 73 yards, 2:12	21	14
AFA TD 2:55 Donald Hammond III 3 Yd Run (Donald Hammond III Run for Two-Point Conversion)		
12 plays, 75 yards, 6:37	21	22
FRES FG 0:07 Cesar Silva 47 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 10 yards, 2:48	24	22
THIRD QUARTER		
AFA TD 8:18 Taven Birdow 3 Yd Run (Jake Koehnke Kick)		
8 plays, 40 yards, 3:38	24	29
FOURTH QUARTER		
AFA TD 13:16 Donald Hammond III 3 Yd Run (Jake Koehnke Kick)		
13 plays, 79 yards, 7:33	24	36
AFA TD 12:22 Kyle Johnson 24 Yd Interception Return (Jake Koehnke Kick)		
2 plays, -3 yards, 0:47	24	43

Team Stats	FRES	AFA
First Downs	12	28
Passes for First	10	2
Rushes for First	2	25
Penalties for First	0	1
Third Down Efficiency	4-8	5-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	4-4
Total Yards	268	421
Total Plays	42	72
Avg Gain Per Play	6.4	5.8
Net Yards Rushing	59	340
Rushes	15	69
Yards Per Rush	3.9	4.9
Net Yards Passing	209	81
Comp-Att	20-27	2-3
Yards Per Pass	7.7	27.0
Times Sacked	0	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-10
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	3	1
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	1
Penalty Yards	19	5
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	20:31	39:29

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
FRESNO ST					
Ronnie Rivers	9	45	5.0	1	26
Derrion Grim	1	17	17.0	0	17
Josh Hokit	3	10	3.3	0	4
Jorge Reyna	2	-13	-6.5	0	0
AIR FORCE					
Timothy Jackson	20	117	5.9	1	15
Kadin Remsberg	11	89	8.1	0	20
Taven Birdow	18	73	4.1	1	13
Donald Hammond III	13	37	2.8	2	9
Joshua Stoner	3	15	5.0	0	12
Mike Schmidt	1	7	7.0	0	7
Benjamin Waters	1	6	6.0	0	6
Team	2	-4	-2.0	0	0

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
FRESNO ST							
Jorge Reyna	20	27	209	7.7	2	1	78.3
AIR FORCE							
Donald Hammond	2	3	81	27.0	1	0	87.6

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
FRESNO ST					
Emoryie Edwards	4	73	18.3	1	39
Zane Pope	4	43	10.8	0	16
Cam Sutton	2	42	21.0	0	29
Jared Rice	3	14	4.7	0	6
Keric Wheatfall	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jalen Cropper	1	8	8.0	0	8
Josh Hokit	2	7	3.5	0	6
Ronnie Rivers	2	5	2.5	0	4
Derrion Grim	1	4	4.0	1	4
AIR FORCE					
Benjamin Waters	1	53	53.0	1	53
Geraud Sanders	1	28	28.0	0	28