

WEEK EIGHT
FLORIDA ST at WAKE FOREST

Wake Forest beats Florida State 22-20 on Sciba's 5th FG

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. -- Whether a close game or a blowout, Wake Forest always seemed to find a way lately to lose to Florida State.

This time, the Atlantic Coast Conference's highest-scoring offense found a way to beat the Seminoles -- by kicking a bunch of field goals.

Nick Sciba kicked a 25-yard field goal -- his school-record-tying fifth of the game -- with 4:18 remaining, and Wake Forest beat Florida State 22-20 on Saturday night.

"It stinks that our offense wasn't able to get in the end zone, but I'm glad that I was able to do my part and do my job in order to help us get a great team win, which I think was a big, pivotal win for us," Sciba said.

Cade Carney had a 3-yard touchdown run on the second play of the fourth quarter, Sam Hartman was 21 of 38 for 308 yards in his first start of the season and Sage Surratt had seven catches for 170 yards -- his fourth game of the season with at least 150.

The Demon Deacons (6-1, 2-1), who average an ACC-best 39.7 points and 540.5 total yards, were held to a season-low point total. Yet they won a game with three lead changes in the fourth, snapped a seven-game losing streak in the series and bounced back from their record-setting 62-59 loss to Louisville.

Wake Forest lost its previous two home games against Florida State by a combined 15 points, and lost by 21 in Tallahassee last year. This was just its second victory over the Seminoles since 2008 and first since 2011.

"We've had some good wins here over the last 3-4 years, but I thought that was as gritty of a win as we've had," coach Dave Clawson said. "Just kind of refusing to give up and finding a way."

James Blackman put the Seminoles (3-4, 2-3) up 20-19 with his 36-yard touchdown pass to Tamorrion Terry with 11:22 to play.

Florida State had the ball twice after Sciba's final field goal. Ricky Aguayo was wide left on a 50-yard field goal into the wind with 2:13 remaining. After the Seminoles forced a stop and got the ball back with 35 seconds left, Blackman fumbled the final two snaps. He recovered them both, but the last one ended the game.

Florida State has lost two straight Atlantic Division games after winning three in a row.

"That one hurt," coach Willie Taggart said. "Big-time." Cam Akers rushed for 157 yards behind a beaten-up offensive line and scored two touchdowns, rushing 2 yards for a score before taking a slick crossing pass from Blackman 19 yards for another TD for the Seminoles.

Blackman finished 27 of 43 for 280 yards with the two scores for Florida State after Taggart played it coy by declining to say whether Blackman or Alex Hornibrook would start against the Demon Deacons.

The second half was played in a persistent shower with Tropical Storm Nestor churning its way across central North Carolina.

THE TAKEAWAY

Florida State: The Seminoles sure didn't look like they have the second-worst total defense in the ACC, allowing 464.5 yards per game. They bowed up and held the Demon Deacons out of the end zone on 13 of their 14 possessions, holding them to field goals five times inside the 10. But the offense turned it over twice and just couldn't put one more score on the board when it needed one.

"We say this every week but it's true -- can't turn the football over," Taggart said. "We've got to take care of the football. We didn't do a real good job of that, and we turned it over in critical situations."

Wake Forest: Turns out the Demon Deacons could beat Florida State with a bunch of 3s and only one touchdown. A week after putting up 59 points in a losing effort against Louisville, the Demon Deacons struggled to score touchdowns in the red zone, settling for those five Sciba field goals in addition to the Carney touchdown. Their last three games have been decided by a combined eight points -- but this one could have been a lot more lopsided.

ROSTER SHUFFLE

Taggart had to repeatedly reshuffle his lineup on both sides of the ball due to injuries and a targeting flag on his top tackler. The Seminoles lost safety Hamsah Nasirildeen to a targeting flag on their first defensive series. And among the handful of Florida State players who went down with injuries of varying severity were starting center Baveon Johnson, left guard Brady Scott and receiver Ontaria Wilson.

SAM'S START

Hartman started the first nine games as a freshman in 2018 before suffering a season-ending leg injury. Jamie Newman took over and did nothing to relinquish the job, leading the Demon Deacons to a 4-1 finish last season and rolling up an ACC-best average of 341.2 total yards through six games before injuring his left shoulder in the second half against Louisville. He watched from the sideline in sweats.

HE SAID IT

"Instead of reading about how we can't beat Florida State, now you guys can write again how we don't win after a bye week." -- Clawson, whose teams in six seasons at Wake Forest have never won its first game after a week off.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
FSU	0	14	0	6	20
WAKE	6	6	0	10	22

Scoring Summary -----

	FSU	WAKE
FIRST QUARTER		
WAKE FG 12:50 Nick Sciba 21 Yd Field Goal		3
9 plays, 72 yards, 2:10	0	
WAKE FG 4:47 Nick Sciba 25 Yd Field Goal		6
8 plays, 59 yards, 3:22	0	
SECOND QUARTER		
WAKE FG 14:52 Nick Sciba 25 Yd Field Goal		9
12 plays, 65 yards, 3:35	0	
FSU TD 13:21 Cam Akers 2 Yd Run (Ricky Aguayo Kick)	7	
6 plays, 75 yards, 1:31	7	9
WAKE FG 9:15 Nick Sciba 27 Yd Field Goal		12
6 plays, 60 yards, 1:31	7	
FSU TD 1:08 Cam Akers 19 Yd pass from James Blackman (Ricky Aguayo Kick)	14	12
12 plays, 87 yards, 3:48	14	12
FOURTH QUARTER		
WAKE TD 14:25 Cade Carney 3 Yd Run (Nick Sciba Kick)		20
6 plays, 61 yards, 1:35	14	19
FSU TD 11:22 Tamorrion Terry 36 Yd pass from James Blackman (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)	20	19
8 plays, 75 yards, 3:03	20	19
WAKE FG 4:18 Nick Sciba 25 Yd Field Goal		22
10 plays, 62 yards, 4:27	20	22

Team Stats	FSU	WAKE
First Downs	28	20
Passes for First	16	12
Rushes for First	9	4
Penalties for First	3	4
Third Down Efficiency	7-17	6-19
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-3	0-0
Total Yards	449	424
Total Plays	89	78
Avg Gain Per Play	5.0	5.4
Net Yards Rushing	169	116
Rushes	46	40
Yards Per Rush	3.7	2.9
Net Yards Passing	280	308
Comp-Att	27-43	21-38
Yards Per Pass	6.5	8.1
Times Sacked	1	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-7	0
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	6	8
Punt Average	41.5	46.6
Penalties	8	4
Penalty Yards	69	38
Fumbles	3	2
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	32:51	27:09

Individual Stats

RUSHING								
FLORIDA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG			
Cam Akers	30	157	5.2	1	32			
Khalan Laborn	5	12	2.4	0	6			
James Blackman	9	8	0.9	0	8			
Team	2	-8	-4.0	0	0			
WAKE FOREST								
FLORIDA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG			
Cade Carney	16	54	3.4	1	13			
Sam Hartman	15	43	2.9	0	9			
Christian Beal-Smith	8	20	2.5	0	6			
Kenneth Walker III	1	-1	-1.0	0	0			
PASSING								
FLORIDA ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat	
James Blackman	27	43	280	6.5	2	1	54.0	
WAKE FOREST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat	
Sam Hartman	21	38	308	8.1	0	0	42.0	

RECEIVING								
FLORIDA ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG			
Tamorrion Terry	4	55	13.8	1	36			
Tre' McKitty	5	44	8.8	0	19			
Cam Akers	4	42	10.5	1	19			
Ontaria Wilson	4	38	9.5	0	16			
Gabe Nabers	2	31	15.5	0	27			
D.J. Matthews	3	27	9.0	0	10			
Tre'Shaun Harrison	2	18	9.0	0	23			
Keith Gavin	1	15	15.0	0	15			
Khalan Laborn	1	11	11.0	0	11			
Camren McDonald	1	-1	-1.0	0	0			
WAKE FOREST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG			
Sage Surratt	7	170	24.3	0	51			
Kendall Hinton	7	93	13.3	0	36			
Scotty Washington	3	25	8.3	0	15			
Jack Freudenthal	2	12	6.0	0	7			
Brandon Chapman	2	8	4.0	0	5			