

WEEK NINE
 APPALACHIAN ST at SOUTH ALABAMA

No. 21 Appalachian State routs South Alabama, 30-3

MOBILE, Ala. -- No. 21 Appalachian State has proven to be explosive on offensive and opportunistic on special teams this season. On Saturday, at a rain-soaked Ladd-Peebles Stadium, the Mountaineers relied on a dominating defense to roll to a 30-3 victory over South Alabama.

Appalachian State (7-0, 4-0 Sun Belt) took a 23-0 lead with 3:45 left in the third quarter. At that point, South Alabama had not run a play beyond midfield and had gained only 43 yards and one first down on 32 offensive snaps.

"I thought our defense played unbelievable today and held them in check all day," Appalachian State coach Eli Drinkwitz said. "It really allowed us offensively to kind of find ourselves. We struggled converting third downs and really didn't play solid enough offensively, but we played well enough to win and we'll be on to the next one."

Offensively, Zac Thomas had a successful return to his home state. The reigning Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year passed for 132 yards, including a 19-yard TD to Thomas Hennigan, without a turnover. The Hewitt-Trussville High School graduate has led the Mountaineers to 13 consecutive victories, which trailed only Clemson and Ohio State entering the game.

The Jaguars (1-7, 0-4) were held to a season-low 139 total yards. The previous low was 190 in a loss to UAB. South Alabama avoided the first home shutout in school history with a 37-yard field goal by Frankie Onate with 5:43 remaining.

"I thought defensively we played well enough to win the game," second-year USA coach Steve Campbell said. "Offensively, we've got to figure out what we need to do to score some points. We've definitely got to move the ball better than we did today."

SHORT FIELD SUCCESS

The Mountaineers didn't produce many explosive offensive plays, but they didn't need to. Because the defense was so suffocating, their five scoring drives covered only 44, 12, 34, 62, 49 and 69 yards.

THE TAKEAWAY

Appalachian State: The No. 21 ranking has the Mountaineers just behind No. 16 SMU and No. 18 Cincinnati and just ahead of No. 22 Boise State among Group of Five teams. Appalachian State is the first Sun Belt Conference team to be ranked in consecutive weeks.

South Alabama: The Jaguars produced no offense until turning to backup quarterback Desmond Trotter midway through the third quarter. The redshirt freshman from Birmingham provided a spark by leading USA to a 65-yard drive that ended in a 32-yard field goal attempt that was blocked. He then led the fourth-quarter field goal drive.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Appalachian State should at least maintain its national ranking after Saturday's defensive showing.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
APP	7	6	10	7	30
USA	0	0	0	3	3

Scoring Summary -----

	APP	USA
FIRST QUARTER		
APP TD 7:06 Thomas Hennigan 19 Yd pass from Zac Thomas (Chandler Staton Kick)		
5 plays, 44 yards, 2:30	7	0
SECOND QUARTER		
APP FG 12:15 Chandler Staton 19 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 12 yards, 3:35	10	0
APP FG 1:09 Chandler Staton 34 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 40 yards, 4:09	13	0
THIRD QUARTER		
APP TD 8:03 Marcus Williams Jr. 3 Yd Run (Chandler Staton Kick)		
4 plays, 62 yards, 1:26	20	0
APP FG 3:45 Chandler Staton 46 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 41 yards, 2:21	23	0
FOURTH QUARTER		
USA FG 5:43 Frankie Onate 37 Yd Field Goal		
12 plays, 53 yards, 3:38	23	3
APP TD 4:48 Raykwon Anderson 67 Yd Run (Chandler Staton Kick)		
2 plays, 69 yards, 0:55	30	3

Team Stats	APP	USA
First Downs	21	10
Passes for First	7	1
Rushes for First	13	7
Penalties for First	1	2
Third Down Efficiency	6-17	1-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	1-1
Total Yards	481	139
Total Plays	73	57
Avg Gain Per Play	6.6	2.4
Net Yards Rushing	349	87
Rushes	45	38
Yards Per Rush	7.8	2.3
Net Yards Passing	132	52
Comp-Att	16-28	6-19
Yards Per Pass	4.7	2.7
Times Sacked	2	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-7	-15
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	6	10
Punt Average	38.3	38.2
Penalties	10	4
Penalty Yards	121	30
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	34:36	25:24

Individual Stats

RUSHING

APPALACHIAN ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Raykwon Anderson	4	99	24.8	1	67
Marcus Williams Jr.	11	94	8.5	1	35
Darrynton Evans	19	46	2.4	0	11
Zac Thomas	6	42	7.0	0	29
Jalen Virgil	3	32	10.7	0	21
Nakendrick Clark	1	6	6.0	0	6
Jackson Gibbs	1	-6	-6.0	0	0
SOUTH ALABAMA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tra Minter	23	94	4.1	0	14
Jared Wilson	3	5	1.7	0	4
John Tank Miller	1	2	2.0	0	2
Carlos Davis	1	0	0.0	0	0
Desmond Trotter	6	-1	-0.2	0	8
Kawaan Baker	2	-6	-3.0	0	0
Cephus Johnson	2	-7	-3.5	0	0

PASSING

APPALACHIAN ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Zac Thomas	16	28	132	4.7	1	0	51.8
SOUTH ALABAMA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Desmond Trotter	3	8	43	5.4	0	0	7.3
Cephus Johnson	3	11	9	0.8	0	0	3.2

RECEIVING

APPALACHIAN ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Thomas Hennigan	6	58	9.7	1	19
Malik Williams	3	37	12.3	0	16
Collin Reed	2	13	6.5	0	7
Corey Xavier Sutton	3	11	3.7	0	8
Keishawn Waston	1	10	10.0	0	10
Darrynton Evans	1	3	3.0	0	3
SOUTH ALABAMA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Cade Sutherland	1	30	30.0	0	30
John Tank Miller	1	7	7.0	0	7
Kawaan Baker	1	6	6.0	0	6
Carlos Davis	1	5	5.0	0	5
Jalen Tolbert	1	2	2.0	0	2
Tra Minter	1	2	2.0	0	2