

WEEK NINE  
SOUTH CAROLINA at TENNESSEE

Tennessee beats South Carolina 41-21 without Maurer KNOXVILLE, Tenn. -- Tennessee's Jarrett Guarantano could sense the approaching pass rush just as the quarterback released the pass on the play that knocked him out of the game and put his team ahead for good.

If nothing else, Guarantano certainly has proved the last month he knows how to take a hit.

Guarantano bounced back from a miserable week and threw two touchdown passes as Tennessee withstood the absence of injured starting quarterback Brian Maurer in a 41-21 victory over South Carolina on Saturday.

"I was just very happy with these guys," Guarantano said. "I love seeing the smiles on their faces when they win. That's really the most important thing to me right now."

Tennessee (3-5, 2/3 SEC) outscored South Carolina 24-0 in the second half to end a three-game skid in this annual series.

The Volunteers threw for a season-high 351 yards as Guarantano and redshirt freshman J.T. Shrout shared the quarterback duties with Maurer unavailable after sustaining concussions each of the last two weeks. Guarantano broke a bone in his left (non-throwing hand) on his go-ahead touchdown pass midway through the third quarter, and he's expected to undergo surgery on Sunday.

Guarantano had been roasted around town and on social media after his fourth-and-goal fumble in a 35-13 loss to No. 1 Alabama last week was returned 100 yards for a game-clinching touchdown. He already had endured a difficult season even before that turnover. After making 22 career starts, Guarantano was benched in favor of Maurer earlier this month.

"I've been really happy," Guarantano said after the game with tongue firmly in cheek. "Everything's been going pretty smooth."

Guarantano apologized to his coaches and teammates about the fumble and vowed to "work my tail off" from this point on. Guarantano said he leaned on his faith and followed the advice of cousins who suggested he smile more. He responded Saturday by going 11 of 19 for 229 yards with a pair of touchdown passes to Jauan Jennings. Guarantano entered on Tennessee's third series and remained in the game until his injury.

Guarantano took a big hit from T.J. Brunson while throwing a 19-yard pass in the back of the end zone to Jennings, who gave Tennessee a 28-24 lead by hanging on to the ball even after taking a shot from R.J. Roderick. Earlier in the game, Jennings caught a 48-yard touchdown in which he broke three tackles on his way to the end zone.

"Jauan has passion for the game," Tennessee coach Jeremy Pruitt said. "He has passion for his teammates. He has passion for the University of Tennessee. He shows it every single day."

Although the hit from Brunson knocked Guarantano out of the game, Tennessee scored again on its next series as Callaway caught Shrout's first career touchdown pass. Shrout finished 7 of 11 for 122 yards.

Jennings ended up with seven catches for a career-high 174 yards and two touchdowns. Callaway had three catches for 102 yards and scored on a 65-yard punt return.

"We didn't cover 15 and 1," South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said as he referred to Jennings' and Callaway's jersey numbers. "We had a hard time matching up on those guys."

Big plays enabled South Carolina (3-5, 2-4) to grab a 21-17 half-time lead.

South Carolina quarterback Ryan Hilinski, who went 28 of 51 for 319 yards, connected with Shi Smith for a 75-yard touchdown on the game's first snap. Late in the second quarter, Bryan Edwards reached his right arm overhead and made a spectacular one-handed, 18-yard catch on the right sideline to set up a Tavien Feaster 1-yard touchdown run.

But it was all Tennessee the rest of the way.

#### THE TAKEAWAY

South Carolina: The Gamecocks simply couldn't cover Jennings and Callaway. Their offense also fell apart after halftime. South Carolina now can only lose once more the rest of the season to become bowl eligible with Vanderbilt, No. 21 Appalachian State, Texas A&M and No. 4 Clemson left on the schedule.

Tennessee: The Vols boosted their bowl hopes because their best players delivered big-time performances. Jennings and Callaway are Tennessee's top two playmakers on offense, and both came up huge. Darrell Taylor had two sacks and broke up a fourth-down pass before getting hurt early in the fourth quarter. Daniel Bituli had 15 stops and blocked a punt and pounced on the ball in the end zone for Tennessee's final touchdown.

#### QB ROTATION

Jennings, a former high school quarterback, took the first snap for Tennessee as the Vols filled in for Maurer. Shrout then took over for most of the first two series with occasional Wildcat help from Jennings before Guarantano entered. After Guarantano got hurt, Shrout took over.

#### REMARKABLE RECEIVERS

Jennings was the first Tennessee player to have two touchdowns and at least 150 yards receiving in a game since Justin Hunter did it against Troy in 2012. ... Edwards became South Carolina's career leader in receptions with 211. Kenny McKinley had 207 catches for the Gamecocks from 2005-08.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
SC	7	14	0	0	21
TENN	3	14	14	10	41

#### Scoring Summary -----

	SC	TENN
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
SC TD 14:49 Shi Smith 75 Yd pass from Ryan Hilinski (Parker White Kick)	7	0
1 play, 75 yards, 0:11		
TENN FG 7:19 Brent Cimaglia 46 Yd Field Goal	7	3
9 plays, 36 yards, 4:00		
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
TENN TD 9:50 Marquez Callaway 65 Yd Punt Return (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	7	10
6 plays, 9 yards, 3:27		
SC TD 3:16 Mon Denson 1 Yd Run (Parker White Kick)	14	10
9 plays, 44 yards, 2:23		
TENN TD 2:34 Jauan Jennings 48 Yd pass from Jarrett Guarantano (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	14	17
2 plays, 75 yards, 0:42		
SC TD 0:10 Tavien Feaster 1 Yd Run (Parker White Kick)	21	17
11 plays, 75 yards, 2:24		
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
TENN TD 8:16 Jauan Jennings 19 Yd pass from Jarrett Guarantano (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	21	24
7 plays, 48 yards, 2:30		
TENN TD 5:07 Marquez Callaway 55 Yd pass from J.T. Shrout (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	21	31
4 plays, 68 yards, 2:06		
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
TENN FG 12:21 Brent Cimaglia 31 Yd Field Goal	21	34
7 plays, 51 yards, 3:12		
TENN TD 11:41 Daniel Bituli 29 Yd Return of Blocked Punt (Brent Cimaglia Kick)	21	41
3 plays, 4 yards, 0:40		

Team Stats	SC	TENN
First Downs	22	20
Passes for First	14	14
Rushes for First	5	6
Penalties for First	3	0
Third Down Efficiency	4-18	5-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-5	0-1
Total Yards	397	485
Total Plays	81	68
Avg Gain Per Play	4.9	7.1
Net Yards Rushing	78	134
Rushes	30	38
Yards Per Rush	2.6	3.5
Net Yards Passing	319	351
Comp-Att	28-51	18-30
Yards Per Pass	6.3	11.7
Times Sacked	0	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-24
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	8	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	8	8
Penalty Yards	65	49
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	25:32	34:28

#### Individual Stats

##### RUSHING

SOUTH CAROLINA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tavien Feaster	19	80	4.2	1	13
Mon Denson	7	12	1.7	0	6
Ryan Hilinski	4	-14	-3.5	0	10
TENNESSEE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Ty Chandler	16	78	4.9	0	15
Jauan Jennings	5	18	3.6	0	11
Tim Jordan	8	17	2.1	0	6
Jarrett Guarantano	2	15	7.5	0	13
J.T. Shrout	1	6	6.0	0	6
Eric Gray	3	5	1.7	0	4
Team	3	-5	-1.7	0	0

##### PASSING

SOUTH CAROLINA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Ryan Hilinski	28	51	319	6.3	1	0	38.4
TENNESSEE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jarrett Guarantano	11	19	229	12.1	2	0	87.7
J.T. Shrout	7	11	122	11.1	1	0	80.3

##### RECEIVING

SOUTH CAROLINA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Shi Smith	11	156	14.2	1	75
Bryan Edwards	8	83	10.4	0	18
Josh Vann	2	26	13.0	0	19
Nick Muse	4	23	5.8	0	11
Kyle Markway	1	16	16.0	0	16
OrTre Smith	1	10	10.0	0	10
Tavien Feaster	1	5	5.0	0	5
TENNESSEE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jauan Jennings	7	174	24.9	2	48
Marquez Callaway	3	102	34.0	1	55
Josh Palmer	5	55	11.0	0	22
Cedric Tillman	1	19	19.0	0	19
Tyler Byrd	1	5	5.0	0	5
Princeton Fant	1	-4	-4.0	0	0