

UConn rides Mensah’s 5 TDs to 56-35 win over UMass

AMHERST, Mass. -- Kevin Mensah ran for 164 yards and a career-high five touchdowns and Connecticut breezed to a 56-35 victory over Massachusetts on Saturday.

Mensah sandwiched scoring runs of 17 and 2 yards around a 1-yard TD plunge by UMass’ Bilal Ally to give the Huskies (2-6) a 14-7 lead after one quarter.

The Minutemen (1-7) pulled even 7 seconds into the second quarter on Andrew Brito’s 40-yard scoring strike to Jermaine Johnson Jr., but UConn scored three touchdowns over a 7:26 span -- Art Thompkins’ 25-yard run, Mensah’s 5-yard run and Jack Zergiotis’ 57-yard scoring strike to Cameron Ross -- to go up 35-14 with 5:41 left. Brito hit Samuel Emilus for a 14-yard score with 64 seconds remaining to pull within 35-21 at halftime.

Ally’s second TD from a yard out got the Minutemen within 35-28 early in the third quarter, but Quayvon Skanes hit Jay Rose for a 15-yard TD on his only pass of the game to push the UConn lead to 42-28 heading into the final quarter. It was Rose’s first career TD catch.

Mensah put the game out of reach with TD runs of 14 and 3 yards. The last UConn player to rush for five TDs in a game was Wilbur Gilliard against James Madison in 1993.

Gilberto Torres capped the scoring with a 19-yard TD run with 52 seconds left in the game.

Thompkins finished with 135 yards rushing on 13 carries as the Huskies piled up 326 yards on the ground. Zergiotis completed 18 of 27 passes for 198 yards with one interception. Freshman Cameron Ross had nine catches for a career-high 120 yards. He was the first Huskies receiver to top the 100-yard mark this season.

Ally finished with 159 yards rushing and Brito completed 20 of 40 passes for 239 yards with an interception for UMass.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
CONN	14	21	7	14	56
MASS	7	14	7	7	35

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER		CONN	MASS
CONN TD 9:54 Kevin Mensah 17 Yd Run (Clayton Harris Kick)			
8 plays, 45 yards, 3:22		7	0
MASS TD 4:31 Bilal Ally 1 Yd Run (Cooper Garcia Kick)			
7 plays, 58 yards, 2:43		7	7
CONN TD 1:39 Kevin Mensah 2 Yd Run (Clayton Harris Kick)			
5 plays, 73 yards, 2:52		14	7
SECOND QUARTER		CONN	MASS
MASS TD 14:53 Jermaine Johnson Jr. 40 Yd pass from Andrew Brito (Cooper Garcia Kick)			
6 plays, 70 yards, 1:46		14	14
CONN TD 13:07 Art Thompkins 25 Yd Run (Clayton Harris Kick)			
4 plays, 45 yards, 1:46		21	14
CONN TD 8:23 Kevin Mensah 5 Yd Run (Clayton Harris Kick)			
8 plays, 61 yards, 4:02		28	14
CONN TD 5:41 Cameron Ross 57 Yd pass from Jack Zergiotis (Clayton Harris Kick)			
2 plays, 59 yards, 0:52		35	14
MASS TD 1:04 Samuel Emilus 14 Yd pass from Andrew Brito (Cooper Garcia Kick)			
14 plays, 75 yards, 4:37		35	21
THIRD QUARTER		CONN	MASS
MASS TD 11:25 Bilal Ally 1 Yd Run (Cooper Garcia Kick)			
6 plays, 85 yards, 2:17		35	28
CONN TD 7:49 Jay Rose 15 Yd pass from Quayvon Skanes (Clayton Harris Kick)			
7 plays, 75 yards, 3:36		42	28
FOURTH QUARTER		CONN	MASS
CONN TD 14:11 Kevin Mensah 14 Yd Run (Clayton Harris Kick)			
12 plays, 79 yards, 6:50		49	28
CONN TD 8:26 Kevin Mensah 3 Yd Run (Clayton Harris Kick)			
4 plays, 57 yards, 2:15		56	28
MASS TD 0:52 Gilberto Torres 19 Yd Run (Cooper Garcia Kick)			
8 plays, 70 yards, 2:09		56	35

Team Stats	CONN	MASS
First Downs	25	24
Passes for First	11	13
Rushes for First	13	7
Penalties for First	1	4
Third Down Efficiency	5-9	8-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	0-2
Total Yards	539	439
Total Plays	69	78
Avg Gain Per Play	7.8	5.6
Net Yards Rushing	326	200
Rushes	41	38
Yards Per Rush	8.0	5.3
Net Yards Passing	213	239
Comp-Att	19-28	20-40
Yards Per Pass	7.6	6.0
Times Sacked	1	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-9	0
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	1	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	5
Penalty Yards	60	46
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	2
Time of Poss	34:58	25:02

Individual Stats

RUSHING

CONNECTICUT	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Kevin Mensah	19	164	8.6	5	45
Art Thompkins	13	135	10.4	1	42
Dante Black	3	22	7.3	0	13
Jack Zergiotis	1	5	5.0	0	5
Donevin O'Reilly	3	3	1.0	0	5
Team	2	-3	-1.5	0	0
MASSACHUSETTS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Kevin Mensah	19	164	8.6	5	45
Art Thompkins	13	135	10.4	1	42
Dante Black	3	22	7.3	0	13
Jack Zergiotis	1	5	5.0	0	5
Donevin O'Reilly	3	3	1.0	0	5
Team	2	-3	-1.5	0	0

PASSING

CONNECTICUT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jack Zergiotis	18	27	198	7.3	1	1	78.7
Quayvon Skanes	1	1	15	15.0	1	0	100.0
MASSACHUSETTS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Andrew Brito	20	40	239	6.0	2	1	39.3

RECEIVING

CONNECTICUT	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Cameron Ross	9	120	13.3	1	57
Ardell Brown	2	26	13.0	0	15
Jay Rose	2	21	10.5	1	15
Art Thompkins	3	16	5.3	0	9
Cameron Hairston	1	12	12.0	0	12
Elijah Jeffreys	1	12	12.0	0	12
Matt Drayton	1	6	6.0	0	6
MASSACHUSETTS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jermaine Johnson Jr.	4	92	23.0	1	40
Sadiq Palmer	4	48	12.0	0	29
Kyle Horn	3	31	10.3	0	20
Zak Simon	3	25	8.3	0	9
Brennon Dingle	3	16	5.3	0	8
Samuel Emilus	1	14	14.0	1	14
Melvin Hill	2	13	6.5	0	8