

WEEK ONE
FLORIDA A&M at UCF

Wimbush, Gabriel shine, No. 17 UCF trounces Florida A&M 62-0

ORLANDO, Fla. -- Brandon Wimbush was impressive. Dillon Gabriel may have been just as good.

Together the redshirt senior transfer, true freshman and even third-stringer Quadry Jones could make UCF's quarterback situation interesting this fall after combining to throw for 356 yards and six touchdowns in a 62-0, season-opening rout of Florida A&M on Thursday night.

"I thought all of them did a ton of positive things," coach Josh Heupel said.

"It doesn't matter who's in there," running back Adrian Killins offered. "They're all capable of leading this team where we want to go."

Wimbush, the former Notre Dame star who won the starting job this summer, threw for 168 yards and two touchdowns.

Gabriel sparkled, too, after finishing second in the competition for the position that opened because of an injury sidelining two-time American Athletic Conference offensive player of the year McKenzie Milton.

"It felt great," Wimbush said after the two-time defending AAC champions amassed 694 yards total offense and won for the 26th time in 27 games.

"We have to keep building ... keep getting better," Wimbush added. "I think that's important for a young and developing team."

Wimbush, who tossed TD passes of 37 and 12 yards to Gabriel Davis, was 13-2 as a starter over the past two years at Notre Dame. He lost his job there to Ian Book despite helping the Fighting Irish begin last season with three consecutive wins.

Gabriel, meanwhile, arrived at UCF from the same high school where Milton played in Hawaii. He performed well enough in fall camp that Heupel felt he deserved some playing time in the opener, and the freshman showed why by going 9 of 13 for 127 yards with TD passes to Otis Anderson, Tre Nixon and Alex Harris.

"I think it's spectacular what he did," Wimbush said, adding Gabriel "did a heck of a job of staying poised" for a freshman in his first college game. Jones, a redshirt freshman, was 2 of 2 for 61 yards and one TD in the fourth quarter.

The Knights improved to 26-1 since the start of 2017, with the lone loss coming against LSU in last season's Fiesta Bowl. The setback ended a school- and American Athletic Conference-record 25-game winning streak.

TOTAL DOMINATION

The Knights ran 65 plays to FAMU's 32, outgaining the Rattlers 462 yards to 25 -- in the first half. Punter Chris Faddoul arguably was FAMU's most effective player, averaging 49.9 yards on 10 punts before halftime. Of course, all of the news on that front wasn't good. Anderson fielded six of those kicks, returning one of them 79 yards to set up Greg McCrae's 25-yard TD run in the second quarter.

THE TAKEAWAY

It was business as usual for UCF, which has scored at least 30 points in 27 consecutive games, the longest such streak for a FBS team since 1936. Wimbush looked comfortable running the offense, making plays with his feet and arm. In the first quarter alone, he ran the ball five times for 42 yards, with each of the runs resulting in a first down.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Opening the season against FAMU won't do anything silence critics of the overall strength of UCF's schedule. The Knights, however, will be tested before beginning conference play in late September, with No. 25 Stanford visiting Orlando in two weeks and UCF traveling to Pittsburgh on Sept. 21.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
FAMU	0	0	0	0	0
UCF	17	31	7	7	62

Scoring Summary -----

	FAMU	UCF
FIRST QUARTER		
UCF TD 13:33 Gabriel Davis 37 Yd pass from Brandon Wimbush (Dylan Barnas Kick)		7
5 plays, 80 yards, 1:04	0	
UCF FG 5:36 Dylan Barnas 42 Yd Field Goal		10
12 plays, 71 yards, 3:01	0	
UCF TD 2:22 Otis Anderson 24 Yd pass from Dillon Gabriel (Dylan Barnas Kick)		17
4 plays, 38 yards, 0:58	0	
SECOND QUARTER		
UCF FG 13:14 Dylan Barnas 23 Yd Field Goal		20
12 plays, 75 yards, 3:40	0	
UCF TD 10:16 Gabriel Davis 12 Yd pass from Brandon Wimbush (Dylan Barnas Kick)		27
8 plays, 71 yards, 2:02	0	
UCF TD 8:02 Greg McCrae 25 Yd Run (Dylan Barnas Kick)		34
2 plays, 25 yards, 0:15	0	
UCF TD 3:37 Tre Nixon 6 Yd pass from Dillon Gabriel (Dylan Barnas Kick)		41
3 plays, 59 yards, 0:45	0	
UCF TD 0:00 Adrian Killins Jr. 1 Yd Run (Dylan Barnas Kick)		48
10 plays, 71 yards, 2:26	0	
THIRD QUARTER		
UCF TD 13:32 Alex Harris 26 Yd pass from Dillon Gabriel (Dylan Barnas Kick)		55
5 plays, 71 yards, 1:28	0	
FOURTH QUARTER		
UCF TD 8:31 Amari Johnson 49 Yd pass from Quadry Jones (Daniel Obar-ski Kick)		62
5 plays, 65 yards, 1:51	0	

Team Stats	FAMU	UCF
First Downs	8	42
Passes for First	5	17
Rushes for First	1	20
Penalties for First	2	5
Third Down Efficiency	3-18	7-16
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	3-3
Total Yards	96	694
Total Plays	61	94
Avg Gain Per Play	1.6	7.4
Net Yards Rushing	4	338
Rushes	25	56
Yards Per Rush	0.2	6.0
Net Yards Passing	92	356
Comp-Att	14-36	23-38
Yards Per Pass	2.6	9.4
Times Sacked	2	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-15	0
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	13	4
Punt Average	47.5	42.0
Penalties	12	7
Penalty Yards	106	65
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	28:57	31:03

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
FLORIDA A&M	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Xavier Smith	1	10	10.0	0	10		
Eddie Tillman III	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Terrell Jennings	6	5	0.8	0	3		
Deshawn Smith	4	3	0.8	0	2		
Ricky Henrilus	6	1	0.2	0	4		
Cameron Sapp	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		
Azende Rey	1	-4	-4.0	0	0		
Ryan Stanley	2	-5	-2.5	0	3		
Cortez Reid	1	-5	-5.0	0	0		
Rasean McKay	1	-7	-7.0	0	0		
UCF	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Adrian Killins Jr.	14	106	7.6	1	31		
Bentavious Thompson	6	64	10.7	0	24		
Greg McCrae	10	56	5.6	1	25		
Trilion Coles	12	47	3.9	0	16		
Otis Anderson	4	37	9.3	0	31		
Brandon Wimbush	8	20	2.5	0	11		
Quadry Jones	2	8	4.0	0	6		
PASSING							
FLORIDA A&M	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Ryan Stanley	7	24	52	2.2	0	0	--
Rasean McKay	7	12	40	3.3	0	0	--
UCF	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Brandon Wimbush	12	23	168	7.3	2	0	81.3
Dillon Gabriel	9	13	127	9.8	3	0	97.7
Quadry Jones	2	2	61	30.5	1	0	99.8
RECEIVING							
FLORIDA A&M	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
David Manigo	2	26	13.0	0	15		
Azende Rey	2	18	9.0	0	9		
Andrew Davis	1	17	17.0	0	17		
Xavier Smith	5	10	2.0	0	6		
George Webb	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Kamari Young	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Kaloeb Parker	2	3	1.5	0	6		
UCF	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Gabriel Davis	3	68	22.7	2	37		
Amari Johnson	2	67	33.5	1	49		
Tre Nixon	6	61	10.2	1	30		
Otis Anderson	3	39	13.0	1	24		
Marlon Williams	3	34	11.3	0	12		
Alex Harris	1	26	26.0	1	26		
Jacob Harris	1	17	17.0	0	17		
Ke'von Ahmad	1	15	15.0	0	15		
Ryan O'Keefe	1	12	12.0	0	12		
Bentavious Thompson	1	10	10.0	0	10		
Greg McCrae	1	7	7.0	0	7		