

WEEK ONE
 GEORGIA TECH vs CLEMSON

Etienne's 3 TDs lead No. 1 Clemson past Georgia Tech, 52-14

CLEMSON, S.C. -- Travis Etienne spent all offseason trying to ignore the national attention headed his way. He'll have a harder time doing that after the show he put on in No. 1 Clemson's opener.

Etienne, the reigning Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year, rushed for a career-high 205 yards and three touchdowns, including one from 90 yards out, as the Tigers overpowered Georgia Tech 52-14 Thursday night for their 16th straight victory in the opener for both ACC teams.

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Etienne started slowly and had a first-quarter fumble to end a drive by the Tigers. The next time he touched the ball, the junior bounced to the left and outraced the Yellow Jackets to the end zone to tie the longest TD run in Clemson history.

Etienne added 14- and 48-yard rushing scores as Clemson went up 35-0. He averaged better than 17 yards on his 12 carries.

Still, Etienne brushed aside what this game might mean for him individually when Heisman Trophy voters are looking for performances like this.

"I really don't try to worry about who's out there watching," Etienne said. "I try to play the best for my team and just try to get to 1-0 every week and be there for my brothers."

Etienne was certainly there to lead the Tigers during a lackluster game for Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence.

The 6-foot-6 sophomore, so poised and polished in leading the Tigers to a 15-0, title-winning season, threw two interceptions in the first half. Lawrence had just four picks all last year.

Still, Lawrence had his moments. His hustle after a bad interception knocked defensive back Tre Swilling out of bounds at the Clemson 3, and the Tigers defense kept the Yellow Jackets from scoring. Lawrence opened things with a 6-yard rushing score and threw a perfect pass to Tee Higgins for a 62-yard touchdown.

Lawrence finished 13 of 23 for 168 yards.

Lawrence knew when he released the ball that Swilling would pick it off. But he went back to his football training, took a good angle and made the play. He said his teammates were cheering his hustle play.

"They weren't happy I threw an interception, but just happy he didn't score," Lawrence said.

Georgia Tech, changing its offensive and defensive styles under first-year coach Geoff Collins, struggled on both sides. It committed four turnovers and gave up more than 500 yards of offense.

Early on, the Yellow Jackets muffed a punt that set up Clemson near its goal line for its first score. Swilling's pick set Tech up with a first-and-goal on the 3, but it could not score.

"We've just got learn to finish those things," Collins said.

THE TAKEAWAY

Georgia Tech: The Yellow Jackets have some work to do to get all the option out of their system. Many of their offensive plays, especially in the first half, looked like the quarterback runs of former coach Paul Johnson.

Clemson: There were sloppy moments on both sides of the ball. But performers like Etienne, Lawrence and Higgins overshadowed any problems the Tigers might have.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Clemson came out fast and never let up. Expect the Tigers to remain No. 1, no matter how many points No. 2 Alabama or No. 3 Georgia hang on opponents this weekend.

TEACHING TIME

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney was grateful for the win -- and grateful he and his coaches will have their players' attention after some sloppy mistakes. Swinney said there were plenty of errors on all sides of the ball that will have to get fixed before No. 12 Texas A&M comes to Death Valley in 10 days. "We can give them some truth," Swinney said. "They have to receive the truth and we've got to get better."

TURNOVER TIME

Clemson's defense picked up four turnovers, two fumbles and two interceptions, in the first game without eight starters off last year's national championship team -- including its starting line of Dexter Lawrence, Austin Bryant and All-Americans Clelin Ferrell and Christian Wilkins. The new unit also had two fourth-down stops in the opening half.

"I think we showed them a little something," said Clemson defensive back Denzel Johnson, who had one of the team's two interceptions.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
GT	0	0	7	7	14
CLEM	14	14	14	10	52

Scoring Summary -----

	GT	CLEM
FIRST QUARTER		
CLEM TD 11:52 Trevor Lawrence 6 Yd Run (B.T. Potter Kick)	0	7
5 plays, 16 yards, 1:50		
CLEM TD 5:39 Travis Etienne 90 Yd Run (B.T. Potter Kick)	0	14
1 play, 80 yards, 0:28		
SECOND QUARTER		
CLEM TD 12:45 Travis Etienne 14 Yd Run (B.T. Potter Kick)	0	21
1 play, 14 yards, 0:04		
CLEM TD 4:34 Tee Higgins 62 Yd pass from Trevor Lawrence (B.T. Potter Kick)	0	28
5 plays, 94 yards, 2:01		
THIRD QUARTER		
CLEM TD 12:42 Travis Etienne 48 Yd Run (B.T. Potter Kick)	0	35
2 plays, 60 yards, 0:29		
GT TD 11:40 Jordan Mason 7 Yd Run (Wesley Wells Kick)	7	35
3 plays, 75 yards, 1:02		
CLEM TD 8:08 Lyn-J Dixon 18 Yd Run (B.T. Potter Kick)	7	42
8 plays, 77 yards, 3:32		
FOURTH QUARTER		
CLEM TD 14:54 Frank Ladson Jr. 21 Yd pass from Chase Brice (B.T. Potter Kick)	7	49
7 plays, 67 yards, 3:13		
GT TD 10:33 Ahmarean Brown 28 Yd pass from James Graham (Wesley Wells Kick)	14	49
9 plays, 90 yards, 4:21		
CLEM FG 6:11 B.T. Potter 51 Yd Field Goal	14	52
9 plays, 41 yards, 4:22		

Team Stats	GT	CLEM
First Downs	13	29
Passes for First	5	9
Rushes for First	8	20
Penalties for First	0	0
Third Down Efficiency	5-16	6-12
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-2	1-2
Total Yards	294	632
Total Plays	63	79
Avg Gain Per Play	4.7	8.0
Net Yards Rushing	157	411
Rushes	45	49
Yards Per Rush	3.5	8.4
Net Yards Passing	137	221
Comp-Att	7-18	18-30
Yards Per Pass	7.6	7.4
Times Sacked	3	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-19	0
Interceptions	2	2
Punts	8	3
Punt Average	43.1	40.0
Penalties	2	6
Penalty Yards	10	43
Fumbles	3	1
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Time of Poss	26:47	33:13

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
GEORGIA TECH	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jordan Mason	13	72	5.5	1	14		
Tobias Oliver	20	56	2.8	0	39		
Jerry Howard Jr.	4	15	3.8	0	7		
James Graham	4	15	3.8	0	10		
Lucas Johnson	1	1	1.0	0	1		
Jamious Griffin	2	1	0.5	0	5		
Nathan Cottrell	1	-3	-3.0	0	0		
CLEMSON							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Travis Etienne	12	205	17.1	3	90		
Lyn-J Dixon	8	64	8.0	1	18		
Chester Mellusi	6	36	6.0	0	12		
Michel Dukes	7	29	4.1	0	13		
Trevor Lawrence	3	24	8.0	1	14		
Taisun Phommachanh	5	21	4.2	0	11		
Darien Rencher	6	21	3.5	0	9		
Chase Brice	2	11	5.5	0	6		
PASSING							
GEORGIA TECH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
James Graham	4	7	72	10.3	1	0	48.5
Tobias Oliver	3	9	65	7.2	0	2	9.3
Lucas Johnson	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	4.3
CLEMSON							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Trevor Lawrence	13	23	168	7.3	1	2	70.6
Chase Brice	5	7	53	7.6	1	0	71.2
RECEIVING							
GEORGIA TECH	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jerry Howard Jr.	2	57	28.5	0	54		
Josh Blancato	1	34	34.0	0	34		
Ahmarean Brown	1	28	28.0	1	28		
Malachi Carter	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Tyler Davis	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Jordan Mason	1	0	0.0	0	0		
CLEMSON							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Tee Higgins	4	98	24.5	1	62		
Lyn-J Dixon	1	22	22.0	0	22		
Frank Ladson Jr.	1	21	21.0	1	21		
Jaelyn Lay	1	20	20.0	0	20		
Cornell Powell	1	13	13.0	0	13		
Justyn Ross	3	13	4.3	0	10		
Joe Ngata	1	12	12.0	0	12		
J.C. Chalk	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Will Swinney	1	4	4.0	0	4		
Diondre Overton	1	3	3.0	0	3		
Travis Etienne	1	3	3.0	0	3		
Brannon Spector	1	3	3.0	0	3		
T.J. Chase	1	1	1.0	0	1		