Big second half helps TCU beat Arkansas-Pine Bluff 39-7

FORT WORTH, Texas -- TCU has two weeks before its next game with Purdue, and coach Gary Patterson said that will give everyone the chance to continue all the guessing about who will emerge as the Horned Frogs' primary quarterback.

Final

Not much was decided Saturday night as TCU debuted two quarterbacks in graduate transfer Alex Delton and true freshman Max Dugan. Both were ho-hum in leading TCU to a 39-7 victory over FCS school Arkansas-Pine Bluff in the season opener for both teams.

Delton, who played 14 games with six starts the last two seasons at Kansas State, started but shared time with Duggan.

Delton was more impressive running the ball (67 yards rushing on seven carries) than passing (10 for 22 for 119 yards). Duggan led all three of the Horned Frogs' touchdown drives and finished 16-for-23 passing for 165 yards.

"I thought they stayed pretty composed," said TCU senior receiver TreVontae Hights, who set a career high with eight catches for 108 yards. "Their leadership was great. I feel comfortable with either one of them."

Patterson didn't heap praise on either quarterback, but pointed out that neither threw an interception. TCU didn't make either quarterback available for comment after the win.

Patterson wasn't happy, however, that five TCU drives stalled inside the red zone.

"That was the place I thought we have to get better," he said. "And the best way to get better there is we have to run the football."

Patterson said he could invoke a five-man quarterback competition the next two weeks, joking that he could even move some quarterbacks to safety or nose guard.

But TCU's other three quarterbacks in the mix -- Michael Collins, Justin Rogers and Matthew Baldwin -- aren't likely to pass up either Delton or Duggan.

Either way, TCU will need a better effort from junior Jalen Reagor, the Horned Frogs' leading receiver last season. He dropped three passes and muffed two punt returns before making amends late in the third quarter.

Reagor ran past Pine Bluff freshman cornerback Jordan Brown at the line of scrimmage to catch a 37-yard touchdown pass from freshman quarterback Max Duggan to give the Horned Frogs a 29-7 lead.

Just prior to Reagor's touchdown, he muffed a punt that was recovered by Pine Bluff at the TCU 37. That set up the Golden Lions' only score, a 1-yard touchdown run by KeShawn Williams that cut TCU's lead to 22-7. Reagor also muffed a punt inside the 15 in the second quarter, but TCU recovered it.

"We fumbled two punts, and both of them came on punt-safe, so we didn't even have a return on," Patterson said. "What Jalen has to learn is it's a critical play and it can't always be a great play. You have to get out of the way.

"You guys know how I feel about this. I'm not happy. There's a bunch of things that need to get fixed. But I think we saw enough that we have the potential to be what we want to be."

Pine Bluff, an FCS team that finished 2-9 last year, entered the game as a 53-point underdog. But the Golden Lions never appeared overmatched.

TCU's defense was steady, picking off two Pine Bluff passes and forcing 11 punts. Because of TCU's red zone struggles, kicker Jonathan Song made a school-record-tying six field goals. Former TCU kicker Jaden Oberkrom also made six field goals Oct. 20, 2012 against Texas Tech.

THE TAKEAWAY

Arkansas-Pine Bluff: The Golden Lions, who return 15 starters (nine on offense), didn't back down. They were within two scores late in the third quarter. Pine Bluff's defense was particularly strong in the red zone, forcing five field goal attempts.

TCU: This wasn't a dominant effort by the Horned Frogs against a much inferior opponent. TCU appears to still be trying to find an offensive identity with its quarterback competition, although Duggan was more productive.

OUARTERBACK STATS

TCU quarterbacks last season were inconsistent for the most part, finishing with only 18 touchdown passes and 15 interceptions, as the Horned Frogs were mediocre themselves at 7-6.

Collins, the former Penn transfer, started four games late last year before a right ankle injury forced him to miss all of spring drills. The junior also missed two weeks of practice in August with a foot injury.

UAPB	0	0	7		0	7	
TCU	10	6	13		10	39	
Scoring Summary FIRST QUARTER	·				UAI	B	TCU
TCU FG 7:53 Jonat 10 plays, 48 yard		24 Yd	Field (Goal	0		3
TCU TD 0:59 Max D	uggan 1	Yd Run	(Jonath	nan So	ong Kick		
11 plays, 58 yard SECOND QUARTER	s, 3:50				0 UA E	В	10 TCU
TCU FG 3:40 Jonat 4 plays, -3 yards	han Song	36 Yd	Field (Goal	0		13
TCU FG 0:00 Jonat	han Song	19 Yd	Field (Goal			
3 plays, 34 yards THIRD QUARTER	, 0:26				0 UA F		16 TCU
TCU FG 13:46 Jona	than Son	g 34 Yd	Field	Goal	0		19
5 plays, 56 yards TCU FG 8:22 Jonat	han Song	38 Yd	Field (Goal			
UAPB TD 1:31 KeShawn Williams 1 Yd Run (Zack Piwniczka Kick)							
2 plays, 37 yards TCU TD 0:07 Jalen	, 0:31 Reagor	37 Yd p	ass fro	om Maz	7 x Duggar	ı (Jona	22 athan Song
Kick) 5 plays, 62 yards		-			7	`	29
FOURTH QUARTER				_	UAF	В	TCU
TCU FG 6:46 Griffi 7 plays, 35 yards		5 Yd Fi	eld Goa	al	7		32
TCU TD 0:48 Darwi 8 plays, 60 yards		8 Yd R	un (Gr	iffin I	Kell Kid 7		39
o plays, oo yalus	, 4.14				,		39
Team Stats First Downs			UAPB 9		TCU 25	i	
Passes for Firs			5		10		
Rushes for Firs			4		11 4		
Third Down Effic	iency		4-17		9-1	8	
Fourth Down Effi	ciency		0-1 215		0-0 485		
Total Plays			62		81		
Avg Gain Per Pl Net Yards Rushi	.ay		3.5 101		6.0 200		
Rushes	119		34		36		
Yards Per Rush Stat Name			3.0		5.6		
Net Yards Passi	.ng		114		285		
Comp-Att Yards Per Pass			13-28 4.1		26 - 6.3		
Times Sacked			3		2		
Yds Lost To Sac Interceptions	ks		-21 2		-6 0		
Punts			11		4		
Punt Average Penalties			0.0 7		0.0 1		
Penalty Yards			78		5		
Fumbles Fumbles Lost			0		7 2		
Time of Poss			28:10		31:	50	
Individual Stat	s						
RUSHING			•	_			
ARKANSAS-PINE Taeyler Porter	Rush 14	48	3.4	1	TD 0	LON 17	
KeShawn Williams DeJuan Miller	9 2	44 5	4.9		1 0	15 4	
Skyler Perry Omar Allen	6 1	4	0.7 3.0	7	0	9 3	
Taylor Holston	2	-3	-1.	5	0	0	
TCU Alex Delton	Rush 7	1 Yds 67	Av 9.6		TD 0	LON 54	
Sewo Olonilua Darwin Barlow	7	50 45	7.1 5.6	L	0	18 14	
Darius Anderson	6	28	4.7	7	0	9	
Emari Demercado Derius Davis	5 1	11 3	2.2 3.0)	0	5 3	
Max Duggan PASSING	2	-4	-2.	0	1	1	
ARKANSAS-PINE	Comp 8	Att 16	Yds 107	Y/A 6.7	TD 0	Int 1	QBRat
Shannon Patrick Skyler Perry	8 5	12	7	0.6	0	1	
TCU Max Duggan	Comp 16	Att 23	Yds 165	Y/A 7.2	TD 1	Int O	QBRat 94.4
Alex Delton RECEIVING	10	22	119	5.4	0	0	40.6
ARKANSAS-PINE	Rec	Yds	Avg		TD	LONG	
Harry Ballard III Taeyler Porter	2	38 35	12.7 17.5		0 0	36 24	
Tyrin Ralph Jeremy Brown	5 3	26 15	5.2 5.0		0	9 12	
TCU	Rec	Yds	Avg		TD	LONG	
TreVontae Hights Jalen Reagor	8 5	108 71	13.5 14.2		0 1	47 37	
Te'Vailance Hunt Derius Davis	3 4	61 21	20.3		0	24 11	
Darius Anderson	1	17	17.0		0	17	
Dylan Thomas Artayvious Lynn	1 1	7 4	7.0 4.0		0 0	7 4	
Sewo Olonilua	3	- 5	-1.7		0	3	