

WEEK TEN
SMU at MEMPHIS

Brady White, Antonio Gibson lead Memphis past No. 15 SMU

MEMPHIS, Tenn. -- Brady White threw for 350 yards and three touchdowns, Antonio Gibson had a school-record 386 all-purpose yards with three scores and No. 24 Memphis held off No. 15 SMU 54-48 Saturday night to cap the biggest day yet in Tigers' football history.

The Tigers (8-1, 4-1) handed SMU its first loss of the season and moved atop the American Athletic Conference's Western Division to improve their case to represent the Group of Five in the New Year's Six.

"This stage, this moment, this opportunity, they came out and they played with everything they had against a really good football team," Memphis coach Mike Norvell said.

SMU (8-1, 4-1) came in with its best start to a season since 1982 when they won their first 10. The Mustangs left having lost their sixth straight in Memphis in a series dominated by the Tigers.

Memphis started the day on display thanks to ESPN's "College GameDay" on Beale Street with wrestler Jerry Lawler as the big guest, then filled the Liberty Bowl with 59,506 for the biggest crowd for an American conference game. The Tigers followed by out-dueling the nation's sixth-best scoring offense, which had been averaging 43 points a game.

"The momentum swings, there were highs, there were lows," Norvell said. "There was a great response from our Memphis Tigers. I want to say thank you to Memphis. Memphis had an opportunity to be showcased, and much like this football team, it rose to the occasion."

The teams combined for 1,067 yards total offense, and SMU stayed close scoring three TDs in the fourth quarter going for 2 after each -- converting all three. Shane Buechele threw a 2-yard TD pass to James Proche with 2:06 left for the final margin.

But Preston Brady recovered SMU's onside kick, and Memphis ran out the clock for the victory.

White said the Tigers understood the special platform they had with the prime-time game on network television.

"We appreciated the opportunity and just wanted to make sure we took advantage of it and put our best foot forward and kind of we fed off that energy a little bit," White said.

Gibson caught six passes for 130 yards and a TD, and he also returned a kickoff 97 yards to open the third. The senior wide receiver padded Memphis' lead, taking a handoff 78 yards for a TD with 9:31 left to give him 386 all-purpose yards for a Memphis record. Damonte Coxie caught seven passes for 143 yards and two TDs.

Buechele finished with 456 yards passing and three TDs, and Ke'mon Freeman ran for two TDs.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The Tigers lost at Temple after entering the Top 25 in October. This victory ensures they will stick around and likely move up a bit. SMU hadn't been ranked this highly since being No. 3 in October 1985, and the Mustangs will drop after this loss.

NO TURNOVERS

SMU came in having forced a turnover in 19 straight games, but the second-longest active streak in the nation ended against Memphis.

THE TAKEAWAY

SMU: The Mustangs played without their leading receiver in Reggie Roberson who is ranked eighth in the nation with 803 yards receiving. Roberson didn't travel with SMU after hurting his foot early in a win against Houston on Oct. 24.

Memphis: Riley Patterson had a career-high 17 points and bailed the Tigers out with four field goals after Memphis had three touchdowns wiped out. Gibson was ruled short of the goal line in the first quarter, and the Tigers later turned the ball over on downs. A 75-yard kickoff return by Joey Magnifico was erased by an illegal block in the back, and a hold negated Kenny Gainwell's second TD run, a 13-yarder, just before halftime.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
SMU	7	10	7	24	48
MEM	7	16	17	14	54

Scoring Summary -----

	SMU	MEM
FIRST QUARTER		
SMU TD 5:49 Kylan Granson 16 Yd pass from Shane Buechele (Kevin Robledo Kick)	7	0
12 plays, 97 yards, 3:49	7	0
MEM TD 3:34 Kenneth Gainwell 14 Yd Run (Riley Patterson Kick)		7
5 plays, 50 yards, 2:15		7
SECOND QUARTER		
MEM FG 13:38 Riley Patterson 30 Yd Field Goal		10
9 plays, 58 yards, 3:19		10
SMU TD 11:30 Xavier Jones 2 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)	7	
7 plays, 53 yards, 2:08	7	
MEM FG 9:24 Riley Patterson 49 Yd Field Goal		14
5 plays, 14 yards, 2:06		14
MEM TD 5:44 Antonio Gibson 50 Yd pass from Brady White (Riley Patterson Kick)	14	20
4 plays, 56 yards, 1:56	14	20
SMU FG 3:42 Kevin Robledo 23 Yd Field Goal		17
7 plays, 67 yards, 2:02		17
MEM FG 0:12 Riley Patterson 34 Yd Field Goal		23
11 plays, 37 yards, 3:30		23
THIRD QUARTER		
MEM TD 14:50 Antonio Gibson 97 Yd Kickoff Return (Riley Patterson Kick)	17	30
0 plays, 0 yards, 0:10	17	30
SMU TD 12:46 Ke'Mon Freeman 2 Yd Run (Kevin Robledo Kick)	24	30
7 plays, 77 yards, 2:04	24	30
MEM FG 8:43 Riley Patterson 50 Yd Field Goal		24
9 plays, 27 yards, 4:03		24
MEM TD 2:14 Damonte Coxie 24 Yd pass from Brady White (Riley Patterson Kick)	24	40
9 plays, 98 yards, 3:17	24	40
FOURTH QUARTER		
SMU TD 12:49 Kylan Granson 30 Yd pass from Shane Buechele (Shane Buechele Pass to Rashee Rice for Two-Point Conversion)	32	40
2 plays, 48 yards, 0:22	32	40
MEM TD 11:36 Damonte Coxie 49 Yd pass from Brady White (Riley Patterson Kick)	32	47
2 plays, 54 yards, 1:13	32	47
MEM TD 9:31 Antonio Gibson 78 Yd Run (Riley Patterson Kick)		54
1 play, 78 yards, 0:16		54
SMU TD 8:07 Ke'Mon Freeman 68 Yd Run (Shane Buechele Pass to Rashee Rice for Two-Point Conversion)	40	54
3 plays, 75 yards, 1:24	40	54
SMU TD 2:06 James Proche 2 Yd pass from Shane Buechele (Jaylon Thomas Run for Two-Point Conversion)	48	54
12 plays, 84 yards, 3:14	48	54
Team Stats		
First Downs	27	26
Passes for First	17	15
Rushes for First	5	7
Penalties for First	5	4
Third Down Efficiency	9-18	8-17
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-2	1-2
Total Yards	553	514
Total Plays	79	72
Avg Gain Per Play	7.0	7.1
Net Yards Rushing	97	164
Rushes	24	39
Yards Per Rush	4.0	4.2
Net Yards Passing	456	350
Comp-Att	34-55	19-33
Yards Per Pass	8.3	10.6
Times Sacked	3	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	-19	-17
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	6	2
Punt Average	34.5	48.5
Penalties	11	16
Penalty Yards	108	134
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	27:01	32:59

Individual Stats

RUSHING

SMU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Ke'Mon Freeman	6	74	12.3	2	68
Xavier Jones	11	22	2.0	1	7
James Proche	1	12	12.0	0	12
Kylan Granson	1	2	2.0	0	2
Shane Buechele	5	-13	-2.6	0	7
MEMPHIS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Antonio Gibson	3	97	32.3	1	78
Kenneth Gainwell	21	88	4.2	1	14
Kylan Watkins	5	10	2.0	0	8
Brady White	7	-14	-2.0	0	2
Team	3	-17	-5.7	0	0

PASSING

SMU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Shane Buechele	34	54	456	8.4	3	0	81.7
James Proche	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	2.8
MEMPHIS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Brady White	19	33	350	10.6	3	0	73.9

RECEIVING

SMU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
James Proche	13	149	11.5	1	49
Rashee Rice	7	122	17.4	0	53
Kylan Granson	4	77	19.3	2	30
Tyler Page	2	42	21.0	0	31
CJ Sanders	1	32	32.0	0	32
Ke'Mon Freeman	2	19	9.5	0	13
Xavier Jones	4	10	2.5	0	4
Ryan Becker	1	5	5.0	0	5
MEMPHIS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Damonte Coxie	7	143	20.4	2	49
Antonio Gibson	6	130	21.7	1	50
Joey Magnifico	2	30	15.0	0	19
Calvin Austin III	1	24	24.0	0	24
Kenneth Gainwell	2	14	7.0	0	7
Kedarian Jones	1	9	9.0	0	9