

White throws 5 TD passes, No. 18 Memphis beats Houston

HOUSTON -- Down early against Houston, there was no panic on the Memphis sideline.

The Tigers remained poised because they knew they would respond.

Brady White threw for 341 yards and five touchdowns and ran for another score and No. 18 Memphis overcame a 10-point first-quarter deficit to beat Houston 45-27 on Saturday.

"It's the first quarter, so there's a lot of football left to be played," White said. "There was not one person who was down or frustrated. We knew what had to be done. We just came out the next series and responded. As long as we own the football and we execute the way we know how to, we know that we can't be stopped."

White completed 22 of 33 passes.

"Brady is one the best quarterbacks in the country," Memphis coach Mike coach Mike Norvell said. "I believed in Brady throughout his time here in Memphis, and it's great to see him play with the confidence and playing within himself."

Damonte Coxie caught four passes for 93 yards and two touchdowns, Antonio Gibson had four catches for 93 yards and a score, and Calvin Austin caught five passes for 81 yards and a touchdown.

Kenneth Gainwell finished with 99 rushing yards on 17 carries for Memphis, which outgained Houston 531-256. The Tigers (9-1, 5-1 American) have won five in a row. Houston (3-7, 1-5) lost its third straight.

"I thought our guys did a great job with how we responded," Norvell said. "It didn't start off the way we necessarily wanted to. We missed some tackles. We gave up a couple big plays. I thought the guys settled down. Really, all three phases showed up and made some plays throughout."

Clayton Tune was 14 of 22 for 157 yards and a touchdown for the Cougars.

"We jumped out on them and felt good about the things we were running and executed really well," Tune said. "We just attacked the things that we saw that they did on defense. I just wish we could have sustained it for longer."

Tune also had a 68-yard touchdown run, and Marquez Stevenson caught five passes for 89 yards and a touchdown.

"I think we ran out of gas with four minutes to go in the second quarter," Houston coach Dana Holgorsen said.

Trailing 17-7 to begin the second quarter, Memphis outscored Houston 35-3 over the next two quarters. White found Coxie twice for touchdowns of 23 and 28 yards sandwiched around a White 14-yard touchdown run, a 14-yard touchdown pass from White to Austin and a 6-yard touchdown pass from White to Gibson.

THE TAKEAWAY

Memphis: The defense allowed 143 yards in the first quarter and 113 yards over the final three quarters. The Tigers finished with nine tackles for loss and three sacks. Memphis was 9 of 13 on third downs.

Houston: The Cougars continue to start off strong but had issues keeping it going again. Houston got into the red zone and settled for field goals twice. The Cougars were 3 of 10 on third downs.

"Then we moved it again all the way down, and I'm like 'Uh oh'," Holgorsen said of settling for field goals. "There's eight points we left out there."

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The Tigers should maintain their position in the poll following the win over Houston.

ARESCO SPEAKS

American Athletic Conference Commissioner Mike Aresco spoke prior to the game on a number of topics, including the College Football Playoff rankings. Aresco was not pleased with the rankings, particularly SMU being left out of the latest rankings and the two-loss and three-loss teams being ahead of the American one-loss teams.

"In the past, they have always said 'OK, we put these two and three and four-loss teams ahead of you'. and they do it on the basis of 'Oh, it's the strength of your conference compared to so-called P5 conferences," Aresco said. "I think that's bogus because this year we're as strong as the ACC. We're as strong as the Pac-12."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MEM	7	21	14	3	45
HOU	17	3	0	7	27

Scoring Summary -----

	MEM	HOU
FIRST QUARTER		
HOU TD 11:36 Marquez Stevenson 53 Yd pass from Clayton Tune (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)	0	7
6 plays, 75 yards, 3:24		
MEM TD 8:03 Kameron Wilson 6 Yd pass from Brady White (Riley Patterson Kick)	7	7
8 plays, 61 yards, 3:33		
HOU TD 7:12 Clayton Tune 68 Yd Run (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)	7	14
2 plays, 75 yards, 0:51		
HOU FG 2:16 Dalton Witherspoon 38 Yd Field Goal	7	17
6 plays, 8 yards, 2:28		
SECOND QUARTER		
MEM TD 13:43 Damonte Coxie 23 Yd pass from Brady White (Riley Patterson Kick)	14	17
9 plays, 65 yards, 3:33		
HOU FG 4:21 Dalton Witherspoon 26 Yd Field Goal	14	20
17 plays, 61 yards, 9:22		
MEM TD 3:30 Brady White 14 Yd Run (Riley Patterson Kick)	21	20
3 plays, 75 yards, 0:51		
MEM TD 0:19 Calvin Austin III 16 Yd pass from Brady White (Riley Patterson Kick)	28	20
11 plays, 98 yards, 2:00		
THIRD QUARTER		
MEM TD 4:12 Antonio Gibson 6 Yd pass from Brady White (Riley Patterson Kick)	35	20
11 plays, 95 yards, 4:30		
MEM TD 2:09 Damonte Coxie 28 Yd pass from Brady White (Riley Patterson Kick)	42	20
3 plays, 31 yards, 1:22		
FOURTH QUARTER		
MEM FG 11:16 Riley Patterson 35 Yd Field Goal	45	20
9 plays, 51 yards, 4:25		
HOU TD 4:59 Cole McGowan 0 Yd Return of Blocked Punt (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)	45	27
6 plays, 19 yards, 3:26		

Team Stats	MEM	HOU
First Downs	29	14
Passes for First	15	6
Rushes for First	11	6
Penalties for First	3	2
Third Down Efficiency	9-13	3-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	1-1
Total Yards	531	256
Total Plays	74	52
Avg Gain Per Play	7.2	4.9
Net Yards Rushing	164	99
Rushes	39	30
Yards Per Rush	4.2	3.3
Net Yards Passing	367	157
Comp-Att	23-35	14-22
Yards Per Pass	10.5	7.1
Times Sacked	1	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-7	-17
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	2	4
Punt Average	22.5	48.3
Penalties	6	3
Penalty Yards	55	40
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	32:30	27:30

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
MEMPHIS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Kenneth Gainwell	17	99	5.8	0	27		
Kylan Watkins	8	39	4.9	0	18		
Patrick Taylor Jr.	5	14	2.8	0	5		
Brady White	2	7	3.5	1	14		
Antonio Gibson	2	7	3.5	0	4		
Rodrigues Clark	3	7	2.3	0	5		
Connor Adair	1	4	4.0	0	4		
Team	1	-13	-13.0	0	0		
HOUSTON	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Clayton Tune	10	65	6.5	1	68		
Kyle Porter	13	23	1.8	0	7		
Chandler Smith	3	10	3.3	0	9		
Terrell Brown	3	6	2.0	0	4		
Quavon Beckford	1	-5	-5.0	0	0		
PASSING							
MEMPHIS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRate
Brady White	22	33	341	10.3	5	1	97.1
Connor Adair	1	2	26	13.0	0	0	92.6
HOUSTON	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRate
Clayton Tune	14	22	157	7.1	1	0	81.4
RECEIVING							
MEMPHIS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Damonte Coxie	4	93	23.3	2	29		
Antonio Gibson	4	93	23.3	1	56		
Calvin Austin III	5	81	16.2	1	20		
Kedarian Jones	6	60	10.0	0	20		
Tahj Washington	1	26	26.0	0	26		
Kenneth Gainwell	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Kameron Wilson	1	6	6.0	1	6		
Joey Magnifico	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
HOUSTON	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Marquez Stevenson	5	89	17.8	1	53		
Bryson Smith	2	18	9.0	0	11		
Kyle Porter	1	15	15.0	0	15		
Chandler Smith	1	12	12.0	0	12		
Jeremy Singleton	3	12	4.0	0	5		
Terrell Brown	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Christian Trahan	1	5	5.0	0	5		