

WEEK THIRTEEN
MIAMI, FL at FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL

James Morgan leads FIU to stunning upset of Miami

MIAMI -- The previous time Miami played at the Orange Bowl was a disaster.

The Hurricanes' return to the site might have been even worse.

Miami didn't just lose a football game on Saturday night -- it lost to crosstown rival Florida International, a relatively fledgling program that has been completely overshadowed by the Hurricanes since its inception two decades ago and barely registers a blip of notice. That is, until now.

James Morgan threw a pair of touchdown passes, and FIU -- a team mostly composed of Florida kids, many of whom grew up wanting to play for the Hurricanes -- pulled off easily the most significant victory in its program's history by stunning Miami 30-24 at Marlins Park, a stadium built on the soil where the five-time national champions were once the most unbeatable force in college football.

"That used to be our dream school," said FIU kicker Jose Borregales, who connected on three field goals -- two of them from 50 yards or more. "Everybody knew Miami. Beating them today, it's like, yeah, we're here."

The Panthers were 20-point underdogs, were 0-3 all-time against Miami and hadn't even led the Hurricanes in any of those previous meetings.

But just like Miami's previous game on those grounds, a 48-0 defeat to Virginia in 2007 in the team's Orange Bowl finale, this one will be remembered as an inexcusably bad night for the Hurricanes. Quarterback Jarren Williams was intercepted three times, running back DeeJay Dallas departed early in the second half with what appeared to be a grotesque elbow injury, and the Hurricanes -- who once won 58 consecutive games at the site -- never led.

"Utter disappointment," Miami coach Manny Diaz said.

Miami was down 23-3 early in the fourth quarter, then got within 23-17 with 3 minutes, 10 seconds left on a 35-yard pass from Williams to Mark Pope. But FIU's Anthony Jones -- who ran for a game-high 112 yards -- sealed the win with a 37-yard touchdown run with 2:17 remaining.

Williams connected with Dee Wiggins for a 3-yard scoring pass with 31 seconds left. But FIU recovered the ensuing onside kick, ran out the clock and began celebrating.

"We've got to do a lot better job getting our guys prepared for this kind of game," Diaz said.

Shemar Thornton and Tony Gaiter IV caught touchdown passes for the Panthers (6-5), who are bowl-eligible with the win. The Panthers started 1-3, got blown out in two of their three most recent games -- by 33 points to Middle Tennessee State and by 30 to Florida Atlantic -- and yet pulled this off.

"We did everything we can, when everybody says you can't," FIU coach Butch Davis said. "To be [three]-touchdown underdogs ... if you believe that you can, then you can."

Cam'Ron Harris rushed for 83 yards and a fourth-quarter touchdown for Miami (6-5), which came into the weekend with hopes of possibly getting into the Orange Bowl. Those chances are doomed now.

The Panthers were brash -- 14 penalties for 144 yards -- and not intimidated. They also weren't afraid to manipulate the rules a bit, with no fewer than five instances of players going down with what appeared to be injuries that just happened to come at times where slowing down Miami would be advantageous. The first two of those came in the second quarter with Miami going for it on fourth downs, and the Hurricanes came up empty on both including a fourth-and-goal from the 1.

Davis insisted the injuries were no ploy. This was not in doubt: Miami simply couldn't stop hurting itself at big times, and paid the price. And criticism from the Hurricanes' fan base has already started.

"The noise is deserved," Diaz said. "We need to get this fixed."

BIG PICTURE

Miami: Bye weeks were not kind to the Hurricanes this season. Miami fell to 0-3 out of bye weeks, after losses to North Carolina, Virginia Tech and now FIU. The Hurricanes were outscored 48-3 in the first quarters of those three games.

FIU: Borregales is the older brother of Miami commitment Andres Borregales -- another kicker with big-time power. The FIU kicker was not recruited by the Hurricanes and was 3-for-3 on field goals against them.

EARLY TROUBLE

This was the 10th time in the past six seasons that Miami trailed by double digits after the first quarter. The Hurricanes are 0-10 in those games. The most recent time they erased such a deficit after one quarter was in 2013, when they were down 17-7 to Georgia Tech after 15 minutes before prevailing.

MORGAN EFFECTIVE

Morgan didn't have big numbers -- 13-for-27, 125 yards -- yet managed the game perfectly. "This entire year, I feel like we've believed in ourselves," Morgan said. "Tonight, it finally came to fruition."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MIA	0	0	3	21	24
FIU	10	3	3	14	30

Scoring Summary -----

	MIA	FIU
FIRST QUARTER		
FIU FG 10:08 Jose Borregales 29 Yd Field Goal		3
4 plays, 6 yards, 2:06	0	
FIU TD 3:59 Shemar Thornton 29 Yd pass from James Morgan (Jose Borregales Kick)		10
11 plays, 80 yards, 4:11	0	
SECOND QUARTER		
FIU FG 0:02 Jose Borregales 50 Yd Field Goal		13
9 plays, 49 yards, 3:07	0	
THIRD QUARTER		
FIU FG 9:02 Jose Borregales 53 Yd Field Goal		16
4 plays, -8 yards, 2:15	0	
MIA FG 1:52 Camden Price 22 Yd Field Goal		16
11 plays, 70 yards, 7:10	3	
FOURTH QUARTER		
FIU TD 11:04 Tony Gaiter IV 13 Yd pass from James Morgan (Jose Borregales Kick)		23
6 plays, 89 yards, 3:06	3	
MIA TD 8:07 Cam'Ron Harris 14 Yd Run (Camden Price Kick)		23
9 plays, 69 yards, 2:57	10	
MIA TD 3:10 Mark Pope 35 Yd pass from Jarren Williams (Camden Price Kick)		23
7 plays, 75 yards, 1:29	17	
FIU TD 2:17 Anthony Jones 37 Yd Run (Jose Borregales Kick)		30
2 plays, 42 yards, 0:53	17	
MIA TD 0:31 Dee Wiggins 3 Yd pass from Jarren Williams (Camden Price Kick)		30
9 plays, 63 yards, 1:46	24	

Team Stats	MIA	FIU
First Downs	26	17
Passes for First	12	10
Rushes for First	11	4
Penalties for First	3	3
Third Down Efficiency	1-10	6-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	3-5	0-0
Total Yards	413	297
Total Plays	67	59
Avg Gain Per Play	6.2	5.0
Net Yards Rushing	164	137
Rushes	31	29
Yards Per Rush	5.3	4.7
Net Yards Passing	249	160
Comp-Att	19-36	16-30
Yards Per Pass	6.9	5.3
Times Sacked	2	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-12	0
Interceptions	3	0
Punts	3	6
Punt Average	52.0	40.2
Penalties	6	14
Penalty Yards	65	144
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	29:47	30:13

Individual Stats

RUSHING					
MIAMI, FL	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Cam'Ron Harris	11	86	7.8	1	19
DeeJay Dallas	9	50	5.6	0	14
Robert Burns	4	31	7.8	0	21
Jarren Williams	6	0	0.0	0	8
Team	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
FIU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Anthony Jones	16	112	7.0	1	37
Napoleon Maxwell	7	35	5.0	0	24
Lexington Joseph	2	6	3.0	0	6
Kaylan Wiggins	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
James Morgan	2	-13	-6.5	0	0

PASSING							
MIAMI, FL	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jarren Williams	19	36	249	6.9	2	3	9.3
FIU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
James Morgan	16	30	160	5.3	2	0	54.4

RECEIVING					
MIAMI, FL	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Will Mallory	4	71	17.8	0	29
Mark Pope	2	49	24.5	1	35
Cam'Ron Harris	2	29	14.5	0	15
Michael Irvin II	1	25	25.0	0	25
K.J. Osborn	3	25	8.3	0	14
Jeff Thomas	2	22	11.0	0	19
Mike Harley	2	19	9.5	0	15
Dee Wiggins	3	9	3.0	1	8
FIU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tony Gaiter IV	6	82	13.7	1	19
Shemar Thornton	6	70	11.7	1	29
Anthony Jones	1	5	5.0	0	5
Napoleon Maxwell	1	2	2.0	0	2
D'Vonte Price	1	1	1.0	0	1
Darrius Scott	1	0	0.0	0	0