

WEEK THIRTEEN  
TEXAS A&M at GEORGIA

Defense shines, No. 4 Georgia prevails 19-13 vs Texas A&M

ATHENS, Ga. -- No. 4 Georgia is still on course to make a run at the College Football Playoff.

No thanks to the offense.

The No. 4 Bulldogs managed only one touchdown Saturday, but Rodrigo Blankenship booted four field goals and the defense stymied 24th-ranked Texas A&M for a lackluster 19-13 victory.

Georgia (10-1, 7-1 Southeastern Conference, No. 4 CFP) wrapped up the league schedule with its fifth straight victory, but it was a struggle all the way.

On a wet day between the hedges, the Bulldogs managed only 260 total yards and didn't really seal the victory until D'Andre Swift broke off an 11-yard run on third-and-1 with 2 1/2 minutes remaining.

"No bones about it, we've got to improve," coach Kirby Smart said. "There were things tonight that we missed that were there. That's the frustrating part."

While the Bulldogs struggled offensively, the defense turned in another dominating performance until the closing minutes, when fatigue set in and the unit had to get by without top cornerback Eric Stokes, who left with an undisclosed injury. His backup, freshman Tyrique Stevenson, knocked away a pass that forced the Aggies to punt with 4:21 remaining. They never got it back. "Those guys are relentless," said Georgia quarterback Jake Fromm, who had another tough game. "I'm really thankful they're on our team."

Texas A&M (7-4, 4-3) was held to just minus-1 yards rushing and 274 yards overall, one week after piling up 319 yards on the ground in a rout of South Carolina. In his final game at Sanford Stadium, Blankenship connected on field goals of 41, 49, 37 and 31 yards to become Georgia's career scoring leader with 418 points. He passed Marshall Morgan (407), Billy Bennett (409) and previous leader Blair Walsh (412). "The history of great kickers that Georgia's had," said Blankenship, who gained notoriety for his thick goggles but will be remembered for his uncanny accuracy. "Just to be among the ranks of those guys is really an honor."

Blankenship's performance was especially impressive in the sloppy conditions. His 49-yarder came when the rain was at its heaviest.

"It was straight down the middle," teammate Richard LeCounte marveled. "That's special."

Athens was hit by storms before the game, and another line rolled through in the second quarter, keeping famed mascot Uga X confined to his doghouse.

Then, suddenly, the showers cleared. So did the cloud over the Georgia offense. Just after sun broke through the clouds, bathing the towering north stands in light, freshman George Pickens slipped free down the right sideline and hauled in a 16-yard pass from Fromm, pushing the Bulldogs to a 13-3 lead at halftime.

It would be Georgia's only trip to the end zone. The Bulldogs kept settling for field goals, and Texas A&M finally produced its lone TD of the game. Going 75 yards in 10 plays, the Aggies scored on Kellen Mond's 19-yard touchdown pass to Jhamon Ausbon with 11:16 remaining.

They got no closer.

"I think we showed a lot of guts," coach Jimbo Fisher said. "Unfortunately, there are no moral victories. We're not here for moral victories. We played a great football team very well, but we've got to find that last 2 inches at the top of the mountain."

FROMM VS SWIFT

Georgia's offensive frustration was epitomized when Fromm failed to audible out of a blitz in the closing minutes and Swift was thrown for a 2-yard loss.

The cameras caught Swift yelling at his quarterback, though everyone shrugged off the incident after the game.

"That's just two competitors who want to compete," Fromm said. Added Swift: "We're always cool. That's football. Nothing is ever going to come between us."

What someone asked Smart about the dust-up between two of his biggest stars, the coach said, "It wasn't a dust-up. That's love. That's passion. It was a situation where we were milking the clock, and A&M disguised a blitz and Jake didn't get out of it."

THE TAKEAWAY

Texas A&M: The Aggies had another chance to prove they can compete with the nation's top teams. Again, they came up short. All four of their losses have been to teams that were ranked in the Top 10 at the time of the game.

Georgia: It's difficult to envision the Bulldogs reaching the four-team playoff with the way their offense is playing. Fromm's struggles are especially concerning. The junior quarterback was 11 of 23 for 163 yards, the third straight game he has failed to complete even 50 percent of his passes. But Swift had some very impressive runs, finishing with 103 yards on 19 carries. Overall, however, the Bulldogs were held to a season-low 97 yards rushing.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
TA&M	0	3	3	7	13
UGA	3	10	3	3	19

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER	TA&M	UGA
UGA FG 8:22 Rodrigo Blankenship 41 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 23 yards, 2:44	0	3
SECOND QUARTER	TA&M	UGA
TA&M FG 13:29 Seth Small 37 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 15 yards, 3:17	3	3
UGA FG 11:36 Rodrigo Blankenship 49 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 22 yards, 1:53	3	6
UGA TD 6:44 George Pickens 16 Yd pass from Jake Fromm (Rodrigo Blankenship Kick)		
7 plays, 65 yards, 2:46	3	13
THIRD QUARTER	TA&M	UGA
UGA FG 11:59 Rodrigo Blankenship 37 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, 1 yard, 0:57	3	16
TA&M FG 4:14 Seth Small 35 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 39 yards, 2:00	6	16
FOURTH QUARTER	TA&M	UGA
UGA FG 14:56 Rodrigo Blankenship 31 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 61 yards, 4:18	6	19
TA&M TD 11:16 Jhamon Ausbon 19 Yd pass from Kellen Mond (Seth Small Kick)		
10 plays, 75 yards, 3:40	13	19

Team Stats	TA&M	UGA
First Downs	16	12
Passes for First	14	6
Rushes for First	1	6
Penalties for First	1	0
Third Down Efficiency	4-15	5-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-0
Total Yards	274	260
Total Plays	62	59
Avg Gain Per Play	4.4	4.4
Net Yards Rushing	-1	97
Rushes	20	36
Yards Per Rush	-0.1	2.7
Net Yards Passing	275	163
Comp-Att	25-42	11-23
Yards Per Pass	6.5	7.1
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-15	-19
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	7	6
Punt Average	42.6	44.7
Penalties	7	2
Penalty Yards	45	30
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	31:34	28:26

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
TEXAS A&M	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Isaiah Spiller	11	7	0.6	0	5		
Kellen Mond	9	-8	-0.9	0	9		
GEORGIA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
D'Andre Swift	19	103	5.4	0	23		
Brian Herrien	10	30	3.0	0	13		
Kearis Jackson	1	1	1.0	0	1		
Team	3	-17	-5.7	0	0		
Jake Fromm	3	-20	-6.7	0	0		
PASSING							
TEXAS A&M	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kellen Mond	25	42	275	6.5	1	0	40.3
GEORGIA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jake Fromm	11	23	163	7.1	1	0	35.5
RECEIVING							
TEXAS A&M	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jhamon Ausbon	9	96	10.7	1	23		
Quartney Davis	5	64	12.8	0	24		
Kendrick Rogers	3	48	16.0	0	23		
Jalen Wydermyer	4	40	10.0	0	20		
Ryan Renick	1	10	10.0	0	10		
Isaiah Spiller	2	9	4.5	0	9		
Cagan Baldree	1	8	8.0	0	8		
GEORGIA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
George Pickens	2	57	28.5	1	41		
D'Andre Swift	4	29	7.3	0	20		
Tyler Simmons	1	27	27.0	0	27		
Kearis Jackson	1	22	22.0	0	22		
Dominick Blaylock	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Demetris Robertson	1	10	10.0	0	10		
Charlie Woerner	1	7	7.0	0	7		