

WEEK THIRTEEN
UTAH AT ARIZONA

Moss leads No. 7 Utah over Arizona 35-7

TUCSON, Ariz. -- Zack Moss was barreling through the line for big gains nearly every time he touched the ball. Tyler Huntley's passing was almost flawless. Utah's defense was dominant, making one of the Pac-12's top rushing teams look extremely average.

Another weekend, another blowout.

And now, Utah is the last team standing in the Pac-12's quest for a spot in the College Football Playoff after crushing Arizona 35-7 on Saturday night.

Utes coach Kyle Whittingham undeniably has his team playing at a high level. So at this point, he's just guarding against complacency.

"Never take winning for granted," Whittingham said. "Don't get bored with winning."

The Utes looked plenty interested on Saturday, bringing their usual brand of physical football. The 5-foot-10, 222-pound Moss ran for a season-high 203 yards and averaged 7.8 per carry.

Utah (10-1, 7-1 Pac-12, No. 7 CFP) has won seven straight games and is the league's lone playoff hope after No. 6 Oregon lost to Arizona State 31-28 earlier on Saturday.

But players say they aren't scoreboard watching.

"It's going to take care of itself," Utah linebacker Francis Bernard said. "As we continue to do our job, winning games, dominating, our team believes that the committee is going to make the decision and we'll just leave it at that."

"We can't do anything but continue to do our thing."

Utah's defense held an opponent to seven points or fewer for the fifth time in six games. Arizona managed just 196 total yards and a big chunk of those came in the fourth quarter when mostly backups were playing.

Huntley completed 19 of 23 passes for 211 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

Tight end Brant Kuithe ran for two touchdowns on two carries. He had just one carry all season before Saturday.

The Utes dominated the first half, gaining 291 total yards to Arizona's 56. They scored on Kuithe's 3-yard touchdown and Huntley's 3-yard pass to Demari Simpkins to take a 14-0 lead by halftime.

Utah had a great chance to score a third touchdown just before the break but was stopped at the 1-yard line as time expired. The defensive stand gave the Wildcats a little momentum heading into the second half until Moss ran for a 41-yard touchdown on the opening drive to leave little doubt about the outcome.

"We felt like they were hanging around a little too much," Moss said. "The score was only 14-0, but we were doing a lot of good things on offense. We just wanted to come out and put some points on the board, so that's what we did."

Arizona (4-7, 2-6) has lost six straight. J.J. Taylor ran for 33 yards on 10 carries.

"That's a good football team we played," coach Kevin Sumlin said. "We couldn't get anything going offensively."

TATE'S SENIOR DAY

It was senior day for Arizona players, including quarterback Khalil Tate, who is close to concluding an up-and-down college career.

He was a breakout star in 2017, when as a sophomore he threw for 1,591 yards and 14 touchdowns and also ran for 1,411 yards and 12 touchdowns.

But coach Rich Rodriguez was dismissed following that season and Sumlin could never get the same results out of Tate, who has mostly regressed during his final two seasons. He's split time with freshman Grant Gunnell this fall.

Neither quarterback had much success against Utah. Tate was 6-of-11 passing for 39 yards and Gunnell was 8-of-16 for 96 yards and had a 7-yard rushing touchdown.

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR MOSS

Moss reached 1,000 yards rushing for the season in the first quarter. He's now run for at least 1,000 yards the past three years, including 1,173 as a sophomore and 1,096 as a junior.

THE TAKEAWAY

Utah: The Utes did what they do best, combining a grinding, efficient offense with a shutdown defense. After Penn State and Oregon lost, they should be in better position to potentially grab a CFP spot.

"Don't care," Whittingham said. "Doesn't matter. We have our hands full with Colorado. We've got to try to figure out how to make a first down next week. That's our objective. Whatever else is happening is none of our business."

Arizona: It was another tough Saturday for the Wildcats, who couldn't get Taylor going in the run game. Arizona ends its season on the road against rival Arizona State, which is coming off a huge win over No. 6 Oregon.

| Final | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | T |
|-------|----|---|----|---|----|
| UTAH | 14 | 0 | 14 | 7 | 35 |
| ARIZ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |

Scoring Summary -----

| | UTAH | ARIZ |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| FIRST QUARTER | | |
| UTAH TD 7:39 | | |
| Brant Kuithe 3 Yd Run (Jadon Redding Kick) | | |
| 11 plays, 75 yards, 5:56 | 7 | 0 |
| UTAH TD 0:37 | | |
| Demari Simpkins 3 Yd pass from Tyler Huntley (Jadon Redding Kick) | | |
| 10 plays, 72 yards, 5:12 | 14 | 0 |
| THIRD QUARTER | UTAH | ARIZ |
| UTAH TD 12:50 | | |
| Zack Moss 41 Yd Run (Jadon Redding Kick) | | |
| 6 plays, 75 yards, 2:10 | 21 | 0 |
| UTAH TD | 8:08 | |
| Brant Kuithe 6 Yd Run (Jadon Redding Kick) | | |
| 6 plays, 57 yards, 3:33 | 28 | 0 |
| FOURTH QUARTER | UTAH | ARIZ |
| UTAH TD 12:47 | | |
| TJ Green 1 Yd Run (Jadon Redding Kick) | | |
| 4 plays, 18 yards, 1:57 | 35 | 0 |
| ARIZ TD 1:50 | | |
| Grant Gunnell 7 Yd Run (Lucas Havrisik Kick) | | |
| 12 plays, 85 yards, 5:00 | 35 | 7 |

| Team Stats | UTAH | ARIZ |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| First Downs | 28 | 11 |
| Passes for First | 10 | 6 |
| Rushes for First | 14 | 4 |
| Penalties for First | 4 | 1 |
| Third Down Efficiency | 6-11 | 2-12 |
| Fourth Down Efficiency | 0-2 | 2-4 |
| Total Yards | 517 | 196 |
| Total Plays | 74 | 52 |
| Avg Gain Per Play | 7.0 | 3.8 |
| Net Yards Rushing | 297 | 61 |
| Rushes | 50 | 25 |
| Yards Per Rush | 5.9 | 2.4 |
| Net Yards Passing | 220 | 135 |
| Comp-Att | 20-24 | 14-27 |
| Yards Per Pass | 9.2 | 5.0 |
| Times Sacked | 1 | 1 |
| Yds Lost To Sacks | -9 | -5 |
| Interceptions | 1 | 0 |
| Punts | 1 | 6 |
| Punt Average | 31.0 | 42.7 |
| Penalties | 11 | 4 |
| Penalty Yards | 110 | 60 |
| Fumbles | 0 | 0 |
| Fumbles Lost | 0 | 0 |
| Possession | 39:32 | 20:28 |

Individual Stats

RUSHING

| UTAH | Rush | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
|-----------------|------|-----|------|----|------|
| Zack Moss | 26 | 203 | 7.8 | 1 | 41 |
| Jaylen Dixon | 2 | 20 | 10.0 | 0 | 12 |
| Devin Brumfield | 6 | 19 | 3.2 | 0 | 9 |
| Derrick Vickers | 2 | 16 | 8.0 | 0 | 8 |
| Jordan Wilmore | 4 | 14 | 3.5 | 0 | 14 |
| Brant Kuithe | 2 | 9 | 4.5 | 2 | 6 |
| TJ Green | 4 | 9 | 2.3 | 1 | 4 |
| Tyler Huntley | 4 | 7 | 1.8 | 0 | 11 |

| ARIZ | Rush | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
|--------------------|------|-----|-----|----|------|
| 21 J.J. Taylor | 10 | 33 | 3.3 | 10 | 0 |
| 6 Michael Wiley | 2 | 7 | 3.5 | 4 | 0 |
| 33 Nathan Tilford | 6 | 6 | 1.0 | 5 | 0 |
| 23 Gary Brightwell | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| 17 Grant Gunnell | 4 | 5 | 1.3 | 7 | 1 |
| 14 Khalil Tate | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| 20 Darrius Smith | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |

PASSING

| UTAH | Comp | Att | Yds | Y/A | TD | Int | QBRat |
|------------------|------|-----|------|-----|----|-----|-------|
| 1 Tyler Huntley | 19 | 23 | 211 | 9.2 | 1 | 1 | 165.3 |
| 15 Jason Shelley | 1 | 1 | 9 | 9.0 | 0 | 0 | 175.6 |
| ARIZ | Comp | Att | Yds | Y/A | TD | Int | QBRat |
| 17 Grant Gunnell | 8 | 16 | 50.0 | 6.0 | 0 | 0 | 100.4 |
| 14 Khalil Tate | 6 | 11 | 54.5 | 3.5 | 0 | 0 | 84.3 |

RECEIVING

| UTAH | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
|----------------------|-----|-----|------|----|------|
| 80 Brant Kuithe | 4 | 81 | 20.3 | 29 | 0 |
| 3 Demari Simpkins | 4 | 34 | 8.5 | 14 | 1 |
| 2 Zack Moss | 4 | 32 | 8.0 | 15 | 0 |
| 25 Jaylen Dixon | 3 | 29 | 9.7 | 12 | 0 |
| 8 Derrick Vickers | 2 | 16 | 8.0 | 9 | 0 |
| 89 Cole Fotheringham | 1 | 11 | 11.0 | 11 | 0 |
| 45 Samson Nacua | 1 | 11 | 11.0 | 11 | 0 |
| 21 Solomon Enis | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |

| ARIZ | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|------|----|------|
| 18 Cedric Peterson | 4 | 63 | 15.8 | 31 | 0 |
| 10 Jamarlye Joiner | 1 | 21 | 21.0 | 21 | 0 |
| 2 Boobie Curry | 1 | 20 | 20.0 | 20 | 0 |
| 11 Tayvian Cunningham | 3 | 14 | 4.7 | 8 | 0 |
| 21 J.J. Taylor | 3 | 10 | 3.3 | 5 | 0 |
| 81 Bryce Wolma | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| 5 Brian Casteel | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |