

WEEK THIRTEEN
EAST TENNESSEE ST at VANDERBILT

Vanderbilt earns win for its beleaguered coach

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) Four days ago, Vanderbilt's athletic director issued public support for his beleaguered football coach.

The Commodores responded with a 38-0 win over East Tennessee State in Vanderbilt's home finale on Saturday, ending a three-game losing streak.

Ke'Shawn Vaughn, a redshirt senior from nearby Pearl-Cohn High School in Nashville, rushed for 139 yards and two touchdowns.

He moved into sixth place in career yards at Vanderbilt with 2,259.

"We had some opportunities to get the ball to our playmakers and that's what you want to see from this football team," said Commodores coach Derek Mason, who is headed for his sixth straight losing season. "We just need to continue to build off this one. I think we still need to be better in some areas."

The Buccaneers ended their season with their first shutout loss since 2016.

ETSU's Quay Holmes, who rushed for a school-record 255 yards in last week's win over Mercer, was held to a season-low 10 yards on 11 carries.

"Vandy, they just came out and they really challenged us to be able to move the ball running it and they challenged us to make plays through the air," Holmes said. "They were definitely loading the box, playing up from what I saw and bringing a lot of people to the show when it came to running the ball."

The Commodores (3-8) held the Buccaneers (3-9) to 105 yards in total offense.

Vanderbilt's defense recorded season-highs for sacks (six) and tackles for loss (12).

"Vanderbilt is bigger, stronger and faster than what we see week-in, week-out," ETSU coach Randy Sanders said. "They knew if they could stop us from running the ball, quarterback and wide receivers weren't our strengths right now. I thought they tried to load the box a little bit the first half, but I think they figured out they didn't necessarily have to and then they sat back and made sure they didn't give up any big plays."

The Commodores won their ninth straight against an opponent from Tennessee and improved to 35-6 against Southern Conference teams.

The Commodores took a 14-0 halftime lead on a 32-yard touchdown pass from Riley Neal to Jared Pinkney in the first quarter and Vaughn's 2-yard TD run in the second quarter.

Vaughn increased the Commodores' lead to 21-0 with a 75-yard run, his longest of the season, down the left side on the first play of the second half.

Tight end Jared Pinkney made his first two TD receptions of the season. In addition to the first-quarter score, he had a 7-yard reception in the end zone that stretched the Commodores' lead to 31-0 with 3:11 left in the third quarter.

Neal passed for 179 yards and two touchdowns for the Commodores.

THE TAKEAWAY

East Tennessee State: The Buccaneers never got anything going offensively, managing just 37 running yards against one of FBS' worst rush defenses.

Vanderbilt: The Commodores' struggling offense finally showed some life after scoring only two TDs in the previous three games.

IT'S ALL ABOUT FINISHING

Vanderbilt's defense only allowed nine yards in the second half.

"It's really about understanding finishing," Commodores linebacker Caleb Peart said. "I think when there's only so many games left in the season, you really have to understand what you're playing for. Obviously, there isn't a bowl game, but we're still playing for something bigger than ourselves and I think guys are very committed and did their job very well tonight."

VANDY'S MOMENTUM

Vaughn hopes the win over ETSU will give Vanderbilt a little momentum entering its in-state rivalry with Tennessee on Saturday.

"It's very important that as a team we're coming off a big win," Vaughn said. "I feel that this is something that we needed going into a rivalry game and we're going to keep preparing."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ETSU	0	0	0	0	0
VAN	7	7	17	7	38

Scoring Summary -----

	ETSU	VAN
FIRST QUARTER		
VAN TD 9:02 Jared Pinkney 31 Yd pass from Riley Neal (Ryley Guay Kick)		7
7 plays, 63 yards, 3:27	0	7
SECOND QUARTER		
VAN TD 6:05 Ke'Shawn Vaughn 2 Yd Run (Ryley Guay Kick)		14
9 plays, 86 yards, 6:00	0	14
THIRD QUARTER		
VAN TD 14:47 Ke'Shawn Vaughn 75 Yd Run (Ryley Guay Kick)		21
1 play, 75 yards, 0:13	0	21
VAN FG 5:38 Ryley Guay 40 Yd Field Goal		24
12 plays, 47 yards, 6:21	0	24
VAN TD 3:11 Jared Pinkney 7 Yd pass from Riley Neal (Ryley Guay Kick)		31
4 plays, 64 yards, 1:38	0	31
FOURTH QUARTER		
VAN TD 2:03 Mitchell Pryor 31 Yd Run (Ryley Guay Kick)		38
2 plays, 34 yards, 0:51	0	38

Team Stats	ETSU	VAN
First Downs	8	17
Passes for First	3	8
Rushes for First	5	9
Penalties for First	0	0
Third Down Efficiency	4-15	5-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	2-2
Total Yards	105	418
Total Plays	52	57
Avg Gain Per Play	2.0	7.3
Net Yards Rushing	37	220
Rushes	35	31
Yards Per Rush	1.1	7.1
Net Yards Passing	68	198
Comp-Att	6-17	17-26
Yards Per Pass	4.0	7.6
Times Sacked	2	6
Yds Lost To Sacks	-10	-43
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	9	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	1	4
Penalty Yards	5	35
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	28:15	31:45

Individual Stats

RUSHING

EAST TENNESSEE ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jacob Saylor	14	51	3.6	0	12
Jawan Martin	2	11	5.5	0	6
Quay Holmes	11	10	0.9	0	11
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Chance Thrasher	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Trey Mitchell	4	-16	-4.0	0	9
Tyler Riddell	2	-16	-8.0	0	0
VANDERBILT	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	14	139	9.9	2	75
Mitchell Pryor	2	34	17.0	1	31
Riley Neal	6	24	4.0	0	27
Ja'Veon Marlow	3	11	3.7	0	5
Justice Shelton-Mosley	1	5	5.0	0	5
Kaliya Lipscomb	1	4	4.0	0	4
Keyon Brooks	4	3	0.8	0	2

PASSING

EAST TENNESSEE ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Trey Mitchell	5	12	50	4.2	0	0	--
Tyler Riddell	1	5	18	3.6	0	0	--
VANDERBILT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Riley Neal	16	24	179	7.5	2	0	86.7
Allan Walters	1	2	19	9.5	0	0	29.5

RECEIVING

EAST TENNESSEE ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Anthony Spagnoletti	2	33	16.5	0	25
Quay Holmes	1	18	18.0	0	18
Keith Coffee	1	16	16.0	0	16
Dawson Pierson	1	3	3.0	0	3
Jawan Martin	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
VANDERBILT	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jared Pinkney	5	76	15.2	2	31
Kaliya Lipscomb	6	75	12.5	0	43
Chris Pierce	1	19	19.0	0	19
Cam Johnson	2	13	6.5	0	8
Justice Shelton-Mosley	1	10	10.0	0	10
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	1	8	8.0	0	8
Keyon Brooks	1	-3	-3.0	0	0