

WEEK FOURTEEN
APPALACHIAN ST at TROY

Thomas, No. 22 Appalachian State rout Troy 48-13

TROY, Ala. -- Zac Thomas and Appalachian State came out fast, built and maintained a big lead and then headed home.

That's where they'll remain next weekend.

Thomas passed for 326 yards and four touchdowns and rushed for a fifth score to lead No. 22 Appalachian State to a 48-13 romp over Troy on Friday night in the regular-season finale.

The win assured the Mountaineers (11-1, 7-1 Sun Belt Conference, No. 25 CFP) of hosting the league title game against Louisiana next Saturday.

"I think it's a culmination of what we've worked for," Appalachian State coach Eli Drinkwitz said. "That's why you put in the blood, sweat and tears so that you can have something special at your home place. Obviously we hope it's cold as crap and snowing."

The Mountaineers did just fine in Alabama's milder weather.

Thomas, Darrynton Evans, Thomas Hennigan and others all delivered big plays for Appalachian State, which reached the end zone on each of its first five possessions against the Trojans (5-7, 3-5).

Thomas was 28-of-34 passing with his final attempt a 25-yard scoring strike to Evans to start the fourth quarter. The Trussville, Alabama native had a 12-yard touchdown run.

Evans also scored on runs of 52 and 9 yards and gained 82 yards. Hennigan gained 140 yards on 11 catches and Malik Williams caught two short touchdown passes.

Appalachian State led 34-13 at halftime. The Mountaineers had two apparent touchdown passes negated by penalties on the final drive before the half, which ended with an interception, but didn't punt until well into the third quarter.

It didn't take long to realize the championship game would be played in Boone.

"I think it's remarkable," Thomas said. "I think any time you can get a bigtime game like that in front of your home crowd, it does measures not only for you as a player but your fans."

The Trojans needed to win to become bowl eligible but fell behind 20-3 in the first 10 minutes.

Kaleb Barker passed for 281 yards with an interception, going 24 of 41. But the Trojans had just nine rushing yards entering the fourth and finished with 35.

"We had a few good opportunities on offense, but we just couldn't get it in the end zone," first-year Troy coach Chip Lindsey said. "Overall, we just didn't get it done. We're disappointed in how our season went."

For Appalachian State, Thomas didn't miss a beat despite the loss of leading receiver Corey Sutton to a torn ACL in the last game against Texas State.

"He hit some deep balls early and after that there was just no stopping him," Hennigan said.

THE TAKEAWAY

Appalachian State: Matched its own Sun Belt record of 11 wins in a season after going 11-2 in both 2015 and 2018. Went unbeaten on the road (6-0) for the first time since 1995. Converted its first 10 third-down tries.

Troy: Closed the regular season with blowout losses to the Sun Belt's two best teams, but this one was at least a better showing than the 53-3 loss to Louisiana. Fell to 2-22 against Top 25 teams.

SECOND CHANCE

Appalachian State defensive back Desmond Franklin bobbled and dropped a likely pick-six on one play near the goal line. On the next play he got another chance, scooping the ball out of the air after it was knocked from a receiver's grasp and returning it 20 yards to set up a touchdown. Drinkwitz was happy with the outcome.

"But I'm going to be all over him for ball security, that was awful," he said.

PAT STREAK ENDS

The Mountaineers' Chandler Staton had made a Sun Belt-record 148 consecutive PATs before missing his first attempt of the game.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
APP	20	14	7	7	48
TROY	10	3	0	0	13

Scoring Summary -----

	APP	TROY
FIRST QUARTER		
TROY FG 12:01 Tyler Sumpter 26 Yd Field Goal		3
8 plays, 65 yards, 2:59	0	
APP TD 10:10 Jalen Virgil 44 Yd pass from Zac Thomas (Chandler Staton PAT failed)	6	3
5 plays, 63 yards, 1:51		
APP TD 6:25 Darrynton Evans 52 Yd Run (Chandler Staton Kick)	13	3
5 plays, 71 yards, 2:09		
APP TD 5:37 Zac Thomas 5 Yd Run (Chandler Staton Kick)	20	3
2 plays, 8 yards, 0:31		
TROY TD 1:13 DK Billingsley 1 Yd Run (Tyler Sumpter Kick)	20	10
9 plays, 75 yards, 4:24		
SECOND QUARTER		
APP TD 12:40 Malik Williams 8 Yd pass from Zac Thomas (Chandler Staton Kick)	27	10
8 plays, 75 yards, 3:33		
APP TD 8:49 Darrynton Evans 9 Yd Run (Chandler Staton Kick)	34	10
7 plays, 56 yards, 2:29		
TROY FG 5:33 Tyler Sumpter 39 Yd Field Goal		34
11 plays, 53 yards, 3:16		
THIRD QUARTER		
APP TD 9:14 Malik Williams 6 Yd pass from Zac Thomas (Chandler Staton Kick)	41	13
12 plays, 75 yards, 5:46		
FOURTH QUARTER		
APP TD 14:54 Darrynton Evans 25 Yd pass from Zac Thomas (Chandler Staton Kick)	48	13
4 plays, 37 yards, 1:36		

Team Stats	APP	TROY
First Downs	27	20
Passes for First	17	15
Rushes for First	9	3
Penalties for First	1	2
Third Down Efficiency	10-13	5-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	1-3
Total Yards	522	339
Total Plays	72	69
Avg Gain Per Play	7.3	4.9
Net Yards Rushing	194	35
Rushes	37	23
Yards Per Rush	5.2	1.5
Net Yards Passing	328	304
Comp-Att	29-35	27-46
Yards Per Pass	9.4	6.6
Times Sacked	0	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-23
Interceptions	1	2
Punts	3	4
Punt Average	47.0	37.0
Penalties	9	4
Penalty Yards	75	20
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	34:30	25:30

Individual Stats

RUSHING

APPALACHIAN ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Darrynton Evans	13	82	6.3	2	52
Marcus Williams Jr.	7	41	5.9	0	12
Daetrich Harrington	5	26	5.2	0	15
Raykwon Anderson	4	14	3.5	0	8
Zac Thomas	2	11	5.5	1	6
Nakendrick Clark	2	10	5.0	0	6
Thomas Hennigan	1	4	4.0	0	4
Jackson Gibbs	1	4	4.0	0	4
Jalen Virgil	2	2	1.0	0	2

TROY

TROY	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jamontez Woods	4	22	5.5	0	12
DK Billingsley	5	14	2.8	1	9
Kaleb Barker	10	9	0.9	0	22
Trevon Woolfolk	3	6	2.0	0	3
Team	1	-16	-16.0	0	0

PASSING

APPALACHIAN ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Zac Thomas	28	34	326	9.6	4	1	98.2
Jacob Huesman	1	1	2	2.0	0	0	3.0

TROY	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kaleb Barker	24	41	281	6.9	0	1	30.1
Kade Young	3	5	23	4.6	0	1	46.9

RECEIVING

APPALACHIAN ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Thomas Hennigan	11	140	12.7	0	43
Jalen Virgil	5	95	19.0	1	44
Malik Williams	6	42	7.0	2	11
Darrynton Evans	3	27	9.0	1	25
Keishawn Watson	2	20	10.0	0	11
Henry Pearson	1	2	2.0	0	2
Raykwon Anderson	1	2	2.0	0	2

TROY

TROY	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Reggie Todd	5	82	16.4	0	35
Khalil McClain	4	58	14.5	0	30
DK Billingsley	4	48	12.0	0	31
Tray Eafford	3	37	12.3	0	25
Bret Clark	3	30	10.0	0	17
Kaylon Geiger	3	27	9.0	0	11
Luke Whittmore	2	14	7.0	0	11
Trevon Woolfolk	3	8	2.7	0	11