

WEEK TWO
MINNESOTA at FRESNO ST

Winfield’s INT seals Minnesota’s 38-35 OT win vs Fresno

FRESNO, Calif. -- Antoine Winfield Jr. spoiled Fresno State’s bid for a Power 5 win for a second straight year.

Winfield intercepted a pass in the end zone in the second overtime to preserve Minnesota’s 38-35 come-from-behind victory over Fresno State on Saturday night with his second game-sealing interception in as many years against the Bulldogs. “It was very similar. It was like deja vu. I remember seeing the quarterback throw the ball again and I was able to make a quick speed turn and I was able to make the play,” Winfield said. “I’m sure they probably hate me right now.”

The Golden Gophers (2-0) tied the game twice late with Tanner Morgan throwing a 20-yard TD pass to Chris Autman-Bell on fourth down in the final minute of regulation and Morgan then scoring on a 4-yard keeper in the first overtime.

Michael Lantz then made a 37-yard field goal for the Gophers on the opening possession of the second overtime before Winfield intercepted Jorge Reyna’s pass to Cam Sutton to send Fresno State (0-2) to the loss.

“When that ball was floating in the air, I saw (Winfield) breaking on it and we all knew what was going to happen,” Morgan said. “He’s a big-time player and he made a big-time play in a big-time situation.”

This was the second straight week Fresno State lost on a late interception in the end zone, with Reyna throwing one last week in a 31-23 loss at Southern California.

“It was there,” coach Jeff Tedford said. “A little too much air on the ball but I don’t think there was anything wrong with the call. We just didn’t execute it the way we need to. Just something we saved for this game if we got into that situation so unfortunate it didn’t work out.”

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The overtime followed a roller-coaster fourth quarter that started with Minnesota tying the game on Mohamed Ibrahim’s 1-yard run early in the quarter. Fresno State went back ahead on Reyna’s 2-yard run with 5:58 remaining following a muffed punt by Deme-trius Douglas.

But the Gophers weren’t done, surviving two fumbles on the drive to tie the game at 28-all with 46 seconds remaining on Morgan’s pass to Autman-Bell.

“We just ran a quick slant and go,” coach P.J. Fleck said. “That was our only shot. He hadn’t had a touchdown yet in a year and a half and here it is. It couldn’t have come at a better time.”

The teams then traded touchdowns in the first overtime with Reyna throwing a 5-yard TD pass to Ronnie Rivers a play after a roughing the passer penalty extended the Fresno State drive.

Morgan then answered with a 4-yard keeper that tied the game at 35.

Morgan threw for 234 yards and two touchdowns. Ibrahim and Rodney Smith ran for scores for the Gophers.

Reyna completed 24 of 35 passes for 288 yards and three TD passes.

THE TAKEAWAY

Minnesota: It hasn’t been easy but the Gophers have opened the season with back-to-back wins to extend the nation’s longest non-conference winning streak to 17 games. Minnesota rallied in the fourth quarter to beat FCS-level South Dakota State 28-21 in the opener and came back to win on the road against a tougher Fresno State team in Week 2.

Fresno State: The Bulldogs have started the season 0-2 for the first time since 2014 by losing to Power 5 teams in Southern California and Minnesota. Fresno State hasn’t been outclassed in either one. The Bulldogs nearly mounted an impressive comeback at USC last week before Reyna threw a late interception in the end zone with his team driving for the potential tying score. Fresno State then couldn’t stop the fourth-and-13 play against Minnesota.

Final	1	2	3	4	OT	T
MINN	7	7	0	14	10	38
FRES	0	10	11	7	7	35

Scoring Summary -----

	MINN	FRES
FIRST QUARTER		
MINN TD 8:47 Rashod Bateman 15 Yd pass from Tanner Morgan (Michael Lantz Kick)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 6:13	7	0
SECOND QUARTER		
FRES FG 10:07 Cesar Silva 48 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 32 yards, 4:36	7	3
MINN TD 4:38 Rodney Smith 1 Yd Run (Michael Lantz Kick)		
10 plays, 65 yards, 5:22	14	3
FRES TD 2:02 Ronnie Rivers 25 Yd pass from Jorge Reyna (Cesar Silva Kick)		
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:36	14	10
THIRD QUARTER		
FRES FG 9:48 Cesar Silva 30 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 68 yards, 5:12	14	13
FRES TD 4:27 Jared Rice 14 Yd pass from Jorge Reyna (Josh Hokit Run for Two-Point Conversion)		
5 plays, 62 yards, 2:10	14	21
FOURTH QUARTER		
MINN TD 11:18 Mohamed Ibrahim 1 Yd Run (Michael Lantz Kick)		
15 plays, 78 yards, 8:04	21	21
FRES TD 5:58 Jorge Reyna 2 Yd Run (Cesar Silva Kick)		
6 plays, 38 yards, 3:14	21	28
MINN TD 0:46 Chris Autman-Bell 20 Yd pass from Tanner Morgan (Michael Lantz Kick)		
11 plays, 59 yards, 5:03	28	28
OVERTIME		
FRES TD Ronnie Rivers 5 Yd pass from Jorge Reyna (Cesar Silva Kick)		
6 plays, 25 yards	28	35
MINN TD Tanner Morgan 4 Yd Run (Michael Lantz Kick)		
3 plays, 25 yards	35	35
MINN FG Michael Lantz 37 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, 6 yards	38	35

Team Stats	MINN	FRES
First Downs	24	21
Passes for First	12	14
Rushes for First	10	3
Penalties for First	2	4
Third Down Efficiency	9-15	3-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	1-1
Total Yards	380	345
Total Plays	75	62
Avg Gain Per Play	5.1	5.6
Net Yards Rushing	146	57
Rushes	52	27
Yards Per Rush	2.8	2.1
Net Yards Passing	234	288
Comp-Att	16-23	24-35
Yards Per Pass	10.2	8.2
Times Sacked	4	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	-22	-26
Interceptions	0	2
Punts	2	3
Punt Average	46.0	44.0
Penalties	7	6
Penalty Yards	65	45
Fumbles	5	1
Fumbles Lost	3	0
Time of Poss	33:41	26:19

Individual Stats

RUSHING						
MINNESOTA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Mohamed Ibrahim	17	88	5.2	1	14	
Rodney Smith	22	61	2.8	1	7	
Tanner Morgan	10	2	0.2	1	10	
Tyler Johnson	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	
Seth Green	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	
FRESNO ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Ronnie Rivers	15	76	5.1	0	19	
Josh Hokit	1	0	0.0	0	0	
Jorge Reyna	11	-19	-1.7	1	3	

PASSING						
MINNESOTA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int
Tanner Morgan	16	23	234	10.2	2	0
FRESNO ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int
Jorge Reyna	24	35	288	8.2	3	2

RECEIVING						
MINNESOTA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Rashod Bateman	7	105	15.0	1	18	
Tyler Johnson	4	71	17.8	0	34	
Chris Autman-Bell	2	29	14.5	1	20	
Jake Paulson	2	19	9.5	0	16	
Rodney Smith	1	10	10.0	0	10	
FRESNO ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Derrion Grim	5	82	16.4	0	24	
Zane Pope	5	68	13.6	0	20	
Ronnie Rivers	5	48	9.6	2	25	
Chris Coleman	3	33	11.0	0	19	
Jared Rice	1	14	14.0	1	14	
Jamal Glaspie	1	14	14.0	0	14	
Juan Rodriguez	2	11	5.5	0	8	
Josh Hokit	1	10	10.0	0	10	
Cam Sutton	1	8	8.0	0	8	