Johnston throws 4 TD passes, UAB beats Akron 31-20

AKRON, Ohio -- Tyler Johnston III passed for 319 yards and four touchdowns, including a 76-yarder to Myron Mitchell, and UAB held off Akron 31-20 on Saturday in the programs' first gridiron meeting.

The Blazers took a 7-6 first-quarter lead on Johnston's 49-yard TD pass to Kendall Parham, then scored 24 unanswered points before the Zips mounted a fourth-quarter comeback after stopping the Blazers on downs.

Johnston, 15-of-24 passing with one interception, hit Austin Watkins on TD passes of 28 and 40 yards before connecting with Mitchell on the 76-yarder in the third quarter. Watkins had three catches for 95 yards, Parham grabbed four for 94, and Mitchell caught two for 88 yards. Spencer Brown, who entered with 2,633 career rushing yards and is vying to become UAB's career rushing leader, was held to 35 yards on 16 carries.

Deltron Sands capped Akron's opening drive with a 1-yard TD run, but the Zips were held scoreless until the fourth quarter when Kato Nelson hit Nate Stewart on a 6-yard TD pass. The comeback stalled with a fumble on a UAB punt return before Nelson hit Timothy Scippio on a 7-yard TD pass.

Nelson completed 25 of 44 passes for 359 yards. Dustin Burkhart caught eight passes for a career-high 217 yards.

	Final	1	2	3		4	т		
	UAB AKRON	7 6	10 0	14 0		0 14	31 20		
r d	Scoring Summary FIRST QUARTER AKRON TD 11:13 SAN					UA		AKRON	
-	UAB TD 0:26 Kendal			-		C	-	6	
D e	Vogel Kick) SECOND QUARTER UAB FG 12:08 Nick	Vogel 39	9 Vd Fi	eld Goa	1	7 UA		6 AKRON	
e	UAB TD 4:57 Austin					yler J			
– h	Vogel Kick) THIRD QUARTER UAB TD 12:50 Austi	n Watkir	ng 40 V	d nass	from	UA		6 AKRON	
e 1 3	Vogel Kick) UAB TD 9:28 Myron			-		2	2	6	
g	Vogel Kick) FOURTH QUARTER AKRON TD 11:04 STE	WART Na	ato 6 v	d nass	from	UA	4 AB Kato	6 AKRON (EITSCHEN	
, n	Jerry kick) AKRON TD 4:42 SCIE					3	1	13	
k -	Jerry kick)		-			3		20	
t	Team Stats			UAB 15		AKI 16	RON		
L	Passes for First Rushes for First Penalties for First Third Down Efficiency			$\begin{array}{ccc} 12 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 \end{array}$					
	Fourth Down Efficiency			0-1 2			-3		
	Total Plays			58 73					
	Net Yards Rushing			6.9 5 83 3 34 2			ŧ		
	Yards Per Rush			2.4 1			.2		
	Comp-Att			15-24 2			5-44		
	Times Sacked			13.3 8 5 0			2		
	Interceptions			-20 0 1 0					
	Punts Punt Average			6 0.0		9 0.()		
	Penalties Penalty Yards			4 35		6 56			
	Fumbles Lost			0 0	0 2				
	Time of Poss 27:37 32:23								
	Individual Stats RUSHING UAB	5 Rush	Vda	.	_	T D	LON	c	
	Spencer Brown Tyler Johnston III	16	35	2.2 3.0		0	7 13	-	
	Jonathan Haden 8 Larry Wooden 1		21 3	21 2.6		0	5 3		
	AKRON Kato Nelson	Rush 13	31	2.4		TD 0	LON 13		
	Deltron Sands Brandon Lee	12 4	9 -6	0.8 -1.		1 0	5 0		
	PASSING UAB Tyler Johnston	Comp 15	Att 24	Yds 319	Y/A 13.3	TD 4	Int 1	QBRat	
	AKRON Kato Nelson	Comp 25	Att 44	Yds 359	¥/A 8.2		Int 0	QBRat	
	RECEIVING UAB	Rec	Yds	Avg		TD	LONG		
	Austin Watkins Kendall Parham Myron Mitchell	3 4 2	95 94 88	31.7		2 1 1	40 49 76		
	Markus Grossman Hayden Pittman	2 2 1	14 11	44.0 7.0 11.0		0	11 11		
	Thair Blakes Larry Wooden	1 1	9 4	9.0 4.0		0 0	9 4		
	Gerrit Prince AKRON	1 Rec	4 Yds	4.0 Avg		0 TD	4 LONG		
	Dustin Burkhart Brandon Lee	8 4	217 61	27.1		0 0	64 48		
	Nate Stewart Andre Williams	4 2 2	28 21 16	7.0		1 0 1	10 13 9		
	Timothy Scippio Jeremiah Knight Michael Mathison	4	16 15 1	8.0 3.8 1.0		0	5 1		
		-	-			-	-		