WKU at FIU

## Western Kentucky stops FIU short, 20-14

MIAMI -- Gaej Walker ran for a touchdown, Steven Duncan passed for another and the Western Kentucky defense made a big goal-line stand as the Hilltoppers defeated Florida International 20-14 in a Conference USA opener on Saturday.

Late in the fourth quarter with WKU leading 20-14, FIU had 2nd-and-goal from the 2-yard line. WKU defensive back Dionte Ruffin hit Panthers quarterback Kaylan Wiggins in the backfield, forcing a fumble. Wiggins recovered the ball at the 16 but was attended to on the field after the play and was removed from the game. James Morgan, who had started the game, then threw incomplete on third and fourth downs. Western Kentucky took over and was able to run out the clock after gaining one first down.

Duncan threw 8 yards to Jahcour Pearson for a touchdown to open the scoring. FIU tied it later in the first quarter when Richard Dames scored on an 80-yard return after interception of a Duncan pass. Walker, who gained 100 yards on 27 carries, ran 2 yards for a touchdown and WKU led 14-7 at halftime.

The Hilltoppers allowed just 14 first downs, 217 yards and one offensive touchdown, a 15-yard run by Napoleon Maxwell in the third quarter that made the score 17-14 in favor of Western Kentucky. Cory Munson added his second field goal of the game, a 44-yarder early in the fourth quarter.

Duncan completed 19 of 33 passes for 241 yards with the one touchdown and two interceptions. Morgan was 3 of 11 for 25 yards; Wiggins 2 of 6 for 41 yards.

Final WKU FIU	<b>1</b> 7 7	<b>2</b> 7 0	<b>3</b> 3 7		<b>4</b> 3 0	<b>T</b> 20 14		
Scoring Summary FIRST QUARTER WKU TD 8:53 Jahco Kick)	ur Pears			from S		Duncan	-	Munson
4 plays, 78 yards FIU TD 6:06 Risha Kick) 5 plays, 27 yards SECOND QUARTER	rd Dames	80 Yd	Interce	eption	7 n Returi 7 <b>WK</b>	ı (Jose	0 Borre 7 FIU	gales
WKU TD 3:53 Gaej 9 plays, 59 yards THIRD QUARTER WKU FG 8:39 Cory	, 3:28 Munson 1:				1 A WK	l U	7 <b>FIU</b>	
12 plays, 79 yard FIU TD 6:03 Napol 7 plays, 75 yards FOURTH QUARTER WKU FG 12:26 Cory	eon Maxw , 2:36				17 Borred 17 WK	gales F 7	7 Kick) 14 <b>FIU</b>	
7 plays, 14 yards					20	)	14	
Team Stats First Downs Passes for Firs Rushes for Firs Penalties for F Third Down Effic	t irst iency		WKU 17 10 6 1 5-13		FIU 14 2 10 2 2-1	.5		
Fourth Down Effi Total Yards Total Plays Avg Gain Per Pl Net Yards Rushi Rushes	ay		0-0 339 68 5.0 98 35		3-5 217 64 3.4 151 46	· !		
Yards Per Rush Net Yards Passi Comp-Att Yards Per Pass Times Sacked	j		2.8 241 19-33 7.3 0		3.3 66 5-1 3.7	.8		
Yds Lost To Sac Interceptions Punts Punt Average Penalties	ks		0 2 6 44.2 7		-8 0 7 45.	1		
Penalty Yards Fumbles Fumbles Lost Time of Poss			60 2 0 33:09		47 3 0 26:	51		
Individual Stat RUSHING WKU Gaej Walker	Rush	. <b>Yds</b>			<b>TD</b> 1	<b>LON</b> 14		
Garland LaFrance Ty Storey Steven Duncan FIU Napoleon Maxwell	1 1 4 <b>Rush</b> 8	2 0 -2	2.0 0.0 -0.	) ) 5	0 0 0 <b>TD</b> 1	2 0 5 <b>LON</b> 15	IG	
Anthony Jones Kaylan Wiggins D'Vonte Price Maurice Alexander James Morgan	11 15 5	43 25 21 11 3	3.9 1.3 4.2 3.3	9 7 2 7	0 0 0 0	18 14 9 5 3		
PASSING WKU Steven Duncan FIU Kaylan Wiggins James Morgan Maurice Alexander	Comp 19 Comp 2 3	Att 33 Att 6 11	Yds 241 Yds 41 25	Y/A 7.3 Y/A 6.8 2.3 0.0	<b>TD</b> 1 <b>TD</b> 0 0 0	Int 2 Int 0 0	<b>QBRat</b> 37.0 <b>QBRat</b> 32.5 9.2 0.1	
RECEIVING WKU Lucky Jackson Kyle Fourtenbary Quin Jernighan Jahcour Pearson Jacquez Sloan Gaej Walker	Rec 6 5 1 4 1 2	Yds 93 74 26 25 14 9	Avg 15.5 14.8 26.0 6.3 14.0		TD 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	LONG 48 28 26 11 14 8		
FIU Maurice Alexander Austin Maloney Tony Gaiter IV	3 1 1	<b>Yds</b> 47 12 7	Avg 15.7 12.0 7.0		<b>TD</b> 0 0 0	40 12 7		