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Football

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SAN MARCOS, Texas - The Georgia Southern football team held off a pesky Texas State squad for a 38-30 Sun Belt win Saturday afternoon at Bobcat Stadium to snap a four-game losing streak.

The Eagles (3-7, 2-5 SBC) got on the board when their drive stalled in the Red Zone as Alex Raynor punched a 24-yard field goal through. Georgia Southern had a chance for more points early in the second quarter, but Raynor pushed a 48-yard field goal wide left. The Bobcats (3-7, 2-4 SBC) marched straight down the field and scored in eight plays on a 13-yard touchdown run from Calvin Hill.

The Eagles moved back down the field on a 10-play drive that was capped by a Jalen White 19-yard touchdown run. On third-and-long, Justin Tomlin (who was in after starter Cam Ransom's helmet came off), fake a handoff to Logan Wright up the middle and sprinted left and pitched at the last minute to White who tiptoed down the sideline for the score.

Later in the quarter, Ransom hit Derwin Burgess Jr. in stride for a 48-yard touchdown pass to give the Eagles a 17-7 lead. For Burgess Jr., it was his first career touchdown catch and it was the first touchdown catch not by an Eagle tight end this season. Texas State couldn't take advantage of great field position late in the half as Seth Keller hit a 45-yard field goal with 1:17 left to cut the lead to seven. The Eagle tried to run out the clock in the half, but Texas State used its timeouts and then blocked an Anthony Beck II punt and recovered it in the end zone with two seconds left. It was the second straight game Beck has had a punt blocked for a touchdown to end the first half.

The kicking oddities continued in the third quarter when Burgess Jr. blocked a Texas State punt and it was returned 20 yards for a touchdown to give the Eagles the lead back. After the Bobcats tied it back up, Georgia Southern marched down the field for a Raynor field goal attempt. It was blocked and recovered by Texas State, but Beck stripped and recovered the fumble and two plays later, Tomlin hit tight end Beau Johnson for a 25-yard touchdown.

White found pay dirt once again, this time from 5-yards out with 5:30 left to give the Eagles an 11-point lead. The 'Cats drove down and took the field goal with 1:10 left to make it an eight-point game, but Hood recovered the onside kick and the Eagles ran out the clock.

Ransom got the start at quarterback but exited in the second half with a shoulder injury. Both Tomlin (108 yards, TD) and Ransom (125 yards, TD) completed seven passes while White led the way with 82 yards on the ground and two touchdowns. Burgess Jr. caught five passes for a career-high 134 yards and a score and also blocked a punt. Eldrick Robinson II led the defense with 12 tackles and an interception.

SCORING

GS: 5:09 re 1st - FG Raynor 24
TXST: 12:04 re 2nd - Hill 13 rush (Keller kick)
GS: 7:59 re 2nd - White 19 run (Raynor kick)
GS: 5:55 re 2nd - Burgess Jr. 48 pass from Ransom (Raynor kick)
TXST: 1:17 re 2nd - FG Keller 45
TXST: 0:02 re 2nd - Haynes recovered blocked punt in end zone (Keller kick)
GS: 11:16 re 3rd - Davis 20 punt return (Raynor kick)
TXST: 5:44 re 3rd - Jeter 1 run (Keller kick)
GS: 1:35 re 3rd - Johnson 25 pass from Tomlin (Raynor kick)
TXST: 9:15 re 4th - FG Keller 33
GS: 5:30 re 4th - White 5 run (Raynor kick)
TXST: 1:10 re 4th - FG Keller 34

Up Next: Saturday, Nov. 23 - vs. #15 BYU - 4 p.m.
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