

## **FIU Football Post Game Notes**

**Middle Tennessee 42 (6-2, 3-1 C-USA), FIU 35 (3-6, 3-2 C-USA)**

**Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016, 7 p.m. | ESPN3**

**Ocean Bank Field at FIU Stadium | Miami, Fla.**

### **Team Notes**

- Saturday's 42-35 loss to Middle Tennessee drops FIU's record to 3-6 on the year and 3-2 in Conference USA ... The setback is the second-straight at the hands of the Blue Raiders in 11 meetings dating back to the 2005 season, and the fourth in the last five games against MT ... The Panthers trail in the all-time series 3-8 (4-8 actual record with one win being vacated due to NCAA sanctions).
- The Panthers drop to 3-2 in Conference USA play this season and, despite the loss to the Blue Raiders, mark their best start in league play since beginning the 2010 campaign with a 4-1 Sun Belt Conference record ... That 4-1 start was the best league start in school history.
- FIU recorded 517 yards in total offense against the Blue Raiders, which is the ninth most in school history for a single game ... In addition, the Panthers' 84 offensive plays is the 10<sup>th</sup> most in school history.
- Interim Head Coach Ron Cooper's record is now 47-58 with Saturday's loss to Middle Tennessee, and is 3-2 at the helm of the Panthers ... Saturday was his 105<sup>th</sup> game as head coach.

### **Individual Notes**

- OL Mike Montero, TE Jonnu Smith, DT Leonard Washington and LB Davison Colimon, were FIU's captains for tonight's game against Middle Tennessee.
- Tonight's offensive starters were: LT Dieugot Joseph, LG Kai Absheer, C Mike Montero, RG Trenton Saunders, RT Daquane Wilkie, WR Thomas Owens, WR Stantley Thomas, WR Darrius Scott, TE Jonnu Smith, QB Alex McGough and RB Alex Gardner
- Tonight's defensive starters were: DE Fermin Silva, DT Imarjaye Albury, DE Newton Salisbury, DE Jermaine Sherriff, LB Treyvon Williams, LB Anthony Wint, LB Davison Colimon, CB Emmanuel Lubin, CB Isaiah Brown, S Nico Gonzalez, S Xavier Hines
- QB Alex McGough finished the Middle Tennessee game throwing for 307 yards on 27-of-40 passing with three touchdowns and one interception ... It marked McGough's third-straight multi-touchdown game.
- McGough's 310-yard passing night was his third outing of better than 300 yards ... He also accomplished the feat against Old Dominion on Oct. 24, 2015 (390 yards) and at Charlotte on Oct. 15, 2016 (315 yards).
- McGough joins the 6,000-yard club through the air finishing the game with 6,293 career yards ... He joins Josh Padrick (2002-06) who threw for an impressive 9,237 yards.
- McGough also rushed for one touchdown breaking the goal line with 35 seconds left in the first half ... It was his fifth scamper for a score of the year ... He finished the game with 46 yards rushing on nine carries.
- McGough ties Julian Reams (2005-08) for sixth all-time in rushing TDs with 11.
- TE Jonnu Smith's first reception in the first quarter marked the 41<sup>st</sup>-straight game with a reception ... His 41-game stretch dates back to his collegiate debut against Maryland on Aug. 31, 2013 in College Park ... Smith finished the night with six receptions for 75 yards and one touchdowns ... The FIU's record for consecutive games with a reception is 44 by Cory McKinney (2002-05) ... Smith came into the game tied with the fifth longest streak in the nation.
- Smith's first reception of the game – with 6:58 left in the first half – marked his third touchdown of the season and the 16<sup>th</sup> of his career.
- WR Thomas Owens' first touchdown of the game – a 10-yard reception from McGough with 1:42 left in the first quarter – was his sixth touchdown reception of the year and the 14<sup>th</sup> of his career ... Owens has caught touchdown pass in four of his last five games.
- Owens would follow that up with his second TD reception of the night – marking his third multi-touchdown game of the season and the fourth of his career.

- RB Anthony Jones's one-yard run with 5:43 left in the game was his third touchdown of the year and fifth of his career ... Jones finished the night with 61 yards on 12 carries.
- RB Alex Gardner rushed for a team-high 95 yards on 19 carries against Middle Tennessee.
- Gardner joined the 2,000-yard rushing club finishing the game with 2,078 yards for his career ... He joins Rashod Smith (2002-04) who has 2,195 career yards and Kendrick Rhodes (2010-12) who logged 2,156 for his career.
- LB Anthony Wint ties Antwan Barnes (2003-06) for tenth all-time in career tackles with 224.
- K Austin Taylor passes T.Y. Hilton (2008-11) for third all-time in points scored with 227.