

FIU Football Post Game Notes

FIU 35 (2-4, 2-0 C-USA), UTEP 21 (1-5, 0-2 C-USA)

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016, 8:00 p.m. ET

Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas

Team Notes

- Today's captains – Leonard Washington, Jonnu Smith, Davison Colimon, Michael Montero
- FIU won the toss and deferred to the second half
- Saturday marked the Panthers' second trip to the Sun Bowl (1-1 all-time)
- Saturday marked the second game for FIU under Interim Head Coach Ron Cooper (2-0 all-time)
- Saturday marked FIU's 172nd game in program history (54-118 all-time)
- With the win, FIU moves to 2-1 all-time versus UTEP
- With the win, FIU moves to 19-68 all-time on the road
- With the win, FIU moves to 9-17 all-time in C-USA action
- With the win, FIU moves to 24-36 all-time versus teams from C-USA
- Saturday marked the 12th time FIU has played a game in Texas (6-6 all-time)
- FIU rushed for over 200 yards for the second-straight week
- The Panthers finished the night with 258 yards rushing (eighth-most in school history)
- FIU had two running back with 100+ yards rushing (Alex Gardner – 141; Anthony Jones – 128). It was the first time the Panthers had two-or-more rushers of 100 yards-or-more in the same game since Nov. 13, 2010 when FIU rushed for 448 yards at Troy (Darriet Perry, T.Y. Hilton and Darian Mallary all rushing for more than 100 yards in the game)
- FIU has now won back-to-back games for the first time since the 2014 season (defeated UAB 34-20 and Florida Atlantic 38-10)

Individual Notes

- Austin Taylor's 50-yard field goal with 8:43 left in the first was the second-longest of his career and tied for the third-longest in FIU history (52 yards – Taylor – 11/2/13 and Adam Moss – 10/23/04)
- Jonnu Smith extended his streak of consecutive games with a catch to 38 games with a 6-yard reception in the second quarter
- Smith finished the night with three catches for 25 yards.
- Alex McGough completed 21-of-31 pass for 241 yards, moving into second place in career passing yards. The Tampa native has 5,390 for his career.
- A.J. Branisel had a career-high three catches for 39 yards and one touchdown
- Taylor converted two field goals on Saturday (50 and 24). It marked the fourth time this season he has converted multiple field goals in a game.
- Thomas Owens notched 125 yards on seven catches. It marked the third 100-yard receiving game of his career
- Owens also grabbed two touchdown passes, tying his career high (at Indiana – 9/12/2015)
- Alex Gardner rushed for a career-high 141 yards on 21 carries. This marked his fourth 100-yard rushing game of the season and eighth of his career (tied for the school record)
- Gardner scored on a nine-yard run on Saturday – his fourth rushing touchdown of the season and 14th of his FIU career (No. 3 all-time in school history)
- Anthony Jones notched a career-high 128 yards on 20 carries. Jones also recorded a career-long 48-yard carry versus the Miners
- Isaiah Brown recorded his first collegiate interception late in the 3rd quarter. Brown also had two pass breakups in the game